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## DRILLING INTO CONTROVERSY

IN DAY 2 OF OUR THREE PART SERIES, METRO LOOKS AT WHY PROVINCES ARE PUTTING A HOLD ON FRACKING

PAGE 20-21

## Bust sends global birth rates tumbling

The number of babies being born spells economic trouble

PAGE 22

## Baird offers help in search for schoolgirls

Canada will supply surveillance equipment to help Nigeria find the students

PAGE 14

# Local drivers endangering school kids: Cop

**On the roads.** City votes to experiment with school bus cameras to catch drivers ignoring bus signals

An Ottawa traffic cop says thousands of drivers rip past stopped school buses every year without batting an eye and the violation has left him and his officers "flabbergasted."

Sgt. Mark Gatien of the Traffic Escort and Enforcement Division is hoping cameras installed on school buses will deter drivers in the city from zipping past them when the stop arm is out — a violation he calls his biggest "pet peeve."

"It's bad and we can't be

everywhere at the same time," said Gatien during a Transit Committee meeting at Ottawa City Hall Wednesday. "We would love to be at every bus stop there is to protect these children and charge everybody that goes past these school buses, but we can't."

The first camera will be installed this month on a Bradley Bus in Orleans with police doing a blitz in May and June. They will analyze the data and hand out tickets from July to December before reviewing the findings in 2015. If it has results, more cameras will likely be installed. "One bus will pull in about 250 tickets a year," added Gatien.

Everyone on council agreed with the concept, but many worry where funding will come from. The cameras cost between \$1,000 and \$2,000,

but councillors were toying with the idea of having insurance companies sponsor the buses.

Coun. Stephen Blais, who initiated the project because of growing complaints from constituents, says the city should make it a priority to find the cash to push the project forward.

"This is an egregious traffic violation," said Blais. "The safety of our kids has to be of utmost importance and when you are talking about passing a stopped school bus, you are putting the lives of our kids at risk and it's the type of behaviour that needs to stop."

If the idea of cameras on buses doesn't deter drivers from zipping past them, perhaps the \$485 fine and six demerit points might.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO



## OTTAWA FOLKFEST ISN'T FOR ROYALS

New Zealand indie-pop sensation Lorde is coming to Ottawa Folkfest this year, organizers of the festival announced Wednesday on Facebook. Lorde, 17, won a Grammy Award for her addictive smash hit *Royals*, from her debut album, *Pure Heroine*. The song also won her a Grammy for best pop solo performance. The multi-day festival is usually held in September at Hog's Back Park. The full artist lineup is expected to be announced at the end of June. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES



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Christopher Gobin

## Grieving father of accused talks to reporters

The father of an 18-year old Ottawa man who is accused of killing his mother told reporters Wednesday he still loves and supports his son.

"It is very hard, of course, to see him this way. I'm very much still grieving. I am still a father of two children, though, I do recognize that. I'm here to support my son," an emotional Jacques Gobin told CTV and CBC following his son Christopher's court appearance.

Christopher Gobin is accused of killing his mother Luce Lavertu on April 22. Jacques Gobin confirmed that his son had struggled with mental illness. He said he was unfamiliar with the court process and was unsure what his role would be when asked if he would support a bail application.

He told reporters he planned to visit Christopher in jail on Friday. **METRO**

Investigation underway

## Construction accident maims worker

Paramedics say a man suffered a crushed hand and amputated fingers in a construction accident Wednesday. Paramedics responded to a call at 144 Wellington St. just before 1 p.m. Paramedics treated a 31-year-old man at the site. They said he was taken to hospital in stable condition.

The Ontario Ministry of Labour is investigating.

**METRO**



A 3D rendering of the Scott Street/Albert LRT bus detour shows just how close 2,500 buses will be to homes and sidewalks. CONTRIBUTED

# LRT planners finally listening: Residents

**Scott Street.** Ottawa councillor hopes to reroute 500 buses from detour



**TREVOR GREENWAY**  
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Ottawa Councillor Diane Holmes hopes the city will consider rerouting 500 buses from travelling down Scott and Albert Streets during the building phase of the city's light rail transit project. That would leave 2,000 buses still detoured down the road.

"The decrease of buses is the most important thing,"

said Holmes following a transit committee meeting Wednesday.

"We have done quite a lot of work on suggesting how to get some of those buses either up on the (Sir John A. Macdonald) Parkway or changing some of that routing."

Holmes is aware that the National Capital Commission must agree to the buses driving down the parkway, but she said they're "open" to discussions.

The Somerset Ward Councillor also put forward a motion for the consortium building the LRT, the Rideau Transit Group (RTG), to include a buffer zone and fence between the narrow Scott Street sidewalk and what will become

a very busy bus lane. Deputy City Manager Nancy Schepers said the motion was supported by city staff.

"That is absolutely essential because it's so narrow," added Holmes.

"People are used to traffic, but they are not used to just a line of buses for three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon."

Dozens of Hintonburg, Mechanicsville and Dalhousie residents were on hand for the meeting and they said that, for the first time in more a year, they felt like the city was actually listening to them.

"As a community, I think what we are most upset about is the process of how we got here and the public delega-

tions weren't really public delegations," said Albert Street resident Catherine McKenney, who was thrilled about the buffer zone and fence.

"We were asked about how long pedestrian signals should be, looking at tweaking intersections. There was never ever a suggestion that they were going to put all 2,500 buses on Scott and Albert."

Other residents suggested RTG review its safety audit and make modifications that will limit pedestrian traffic and make it safer for residents. RTG agreed to consider the community's comments.

The RTG will hold an open house June 9 and 10 to present its final design on the detour.

1 NEWS

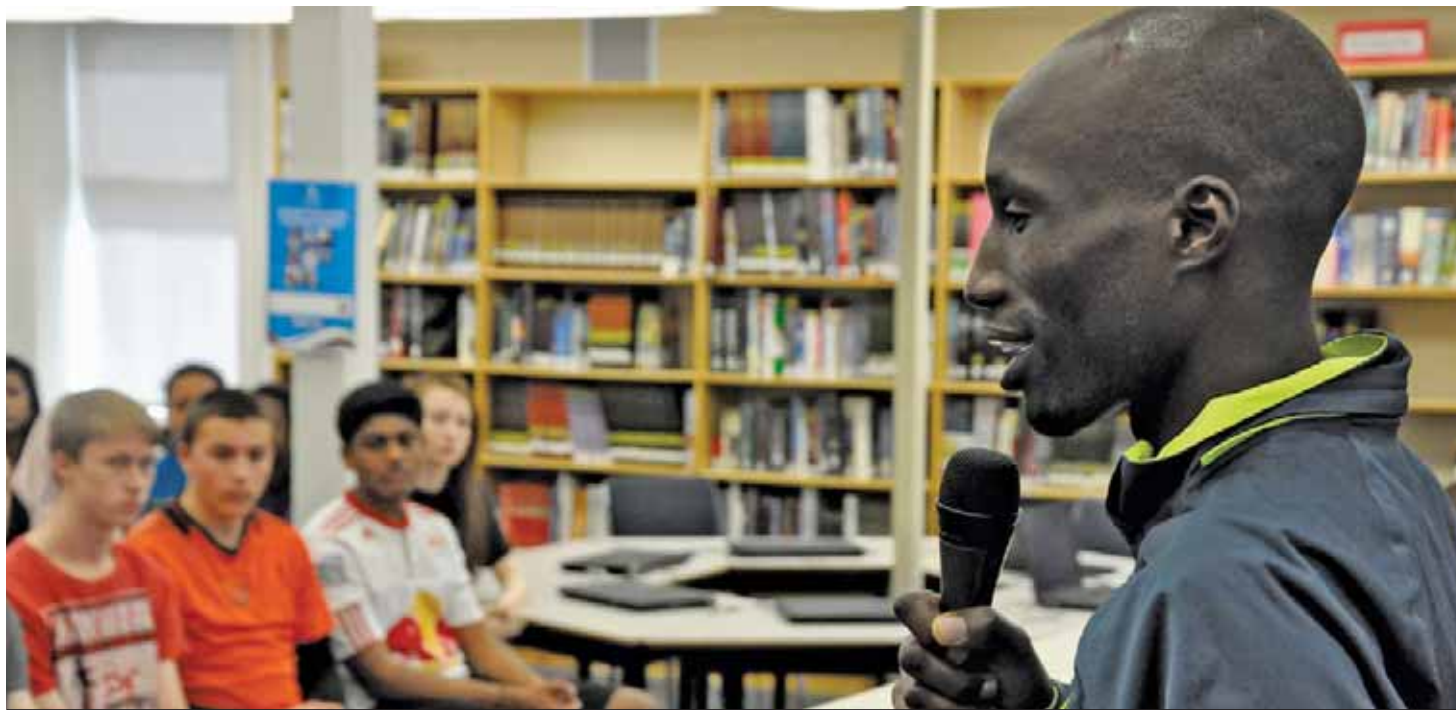
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Professional marathoner Wesley Korir speaks to students at Bell High School on Wednesday. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

# Don't just sit, Kenyan marathoner tells students

**Wesley Korir.** Ottawa Marathon organizers bring runner's inspiring message to Bell High School



SEAN MCKIBBON  
sean.mckibbon@metronews.ca

Top Ottawa Marathon contender Wesley Korir had an eight-kilometre run between his home and school every day in Kenya — and that was just if he wasn't sent home to help

his family with an errand.

But it wasn't the run that most worried Korir about being sent home. It was the reason.

"In Kenya you have to pay to go to school after you finish elementary," he told a class of 40 Bell High School students Wednesday — a talk arranged by school staff and organizers of the Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend.

Kids in Kenya who couldn't pay were sent home. And he was one of them.

"They would come into class and say, 'Is Wesley Korir in class?' And so I would be

the first one to say, 'He is not here. He left already,'" Korir chuckled, drawing laughter from the Bell students.

His trick worked for a little while he said, but not for long. Eventually he was sent home, but he would still try to sneak in, even listening at the window. His drive caught the attention of a teacher who decided to pay for Korir's schooling out of his own pocket.

That led to a sport scholarship that allowed Korir to go to America, where he would eventually raise eyebrows in the Boston Marathon, then win the 2008 and 2009 editions

of the Los Angeles Marathon.

"None of it would have happened without school," and the help he received, he said. But more importantly, he told the students, none of it would have happened with out his own drive to stay in school.

"I had friends who when they told them to go home they went home and sat at home and told themselves, 'I'm poor. I guess I was born to be poor. There's nothing I can do,'" Korir said.

"Get up and do something. Don't just sit down there. Don't say you can't. If you want something you just get up and

do something and push yourself to the next level."

Korir, now an MP in Kenya, has started the Kenyan Kids Foundation to help young people in his home country get the same opportunities he did and get to the next level.

In their own small way the students he was speaking to were also aiming to get to the next level in Korir's sport — running. In a month the class led by teacher Karen Kurlicki will be having its exam at 10k run.

You can find out more about Korir's charity at [kenyankidsfoundation.ca](http://kenyankidsfoundation.ca)

## Scotiabank Marathon

### Event brings top runners to the city

Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend organizers released the full roster of top contenders in the May 25 Scotiabank Marathon Wednesday.

The Canadian land soil record of 2:07:05 is likely to fall at this year's IAAF silver label Scotiabank Ottawa Marathon with five of the top contenders boasting personal bests under 2:07.

The fastest man in the field, Yemane Tseguey of Ethiopia holds a personal best time of 2:04:48.

Tseguey recently won the 2014 Daegu International Marathon on April 6.

His time was 2:06:50.

Another Ethiopian, Bazu Worku, has a personal best time of 2:05:25.

The 2012 Boston Marathon champ Wesley Korir of Kenya is also one to watch with his personal best time of 2:06:13.

Korir is also a two-time Los Angeles Marathon winner.

The women's field is equally impressive

The women's course record of 2:25:31 is also up for grabs.

Ethiopian Ehitu Kiros and Kenyan Agnes Kiprop will be participating.

Both have personal bests under 2:24.

Kiros' compatriot, Etalemahu Kidane, will also be looking for that first place finish and \$20,000 prize purse.

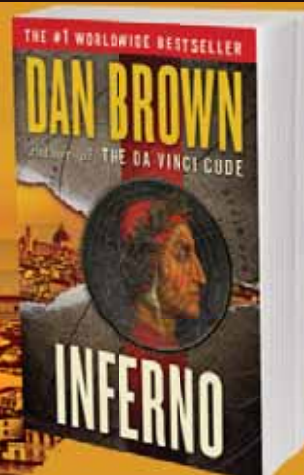
Kidane holds a personal best of 2:25:49.

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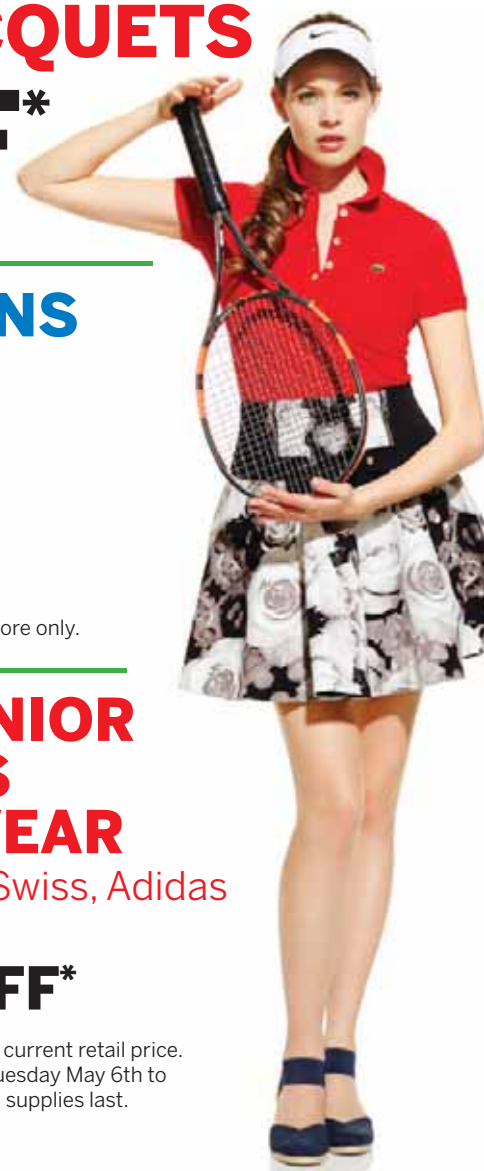
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# Texting and driving should be 'socially unacceptable': Allstate Canada manager



Texting drivers are 23 times more likely to be involved in car accidents than the rest of us. ISTOCK PHOTO

**Distraction free.**  
Participants make pledge to ditch devices for 23 hours



**JOE LOFARO**  
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

A youth-oriented campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of texting while driving is

returning this month with a 23-hour pledge to ditch the mobile phone.

The Distraction-Free 23 movement is based on the statistic that drivers are 23 times more likely to get in a collision when they are distracted.

"If you can go 23 hours without using that stuff for that period of time, then someone can go five or 10 minutes without using it in a vehicle," said Greg Bergeron, agency manager at

Allstate Canada in Barrhaven. "A simple text is like you're going three lengths of a football field blind." Allstate Canada piloted the event with schools for the first time last fall, but are now making it a nationwide movement.

It works through the honour system as participants make an online pledge to ditch personal electronic devices like cellphones and music players and the Internet for 23 hours

from 6 p.m. on May 23 to 5 p.m. on May 24. This year participants who sign up online can link their Facebook or Twitter accounts and change their profile photos to advertise the campaign and let friends know they are taking a break from 'Liking' and 'Tweeting'.

The goal is to get people talking about how distracted driving is dangerous and can change lives in a matter of seconds.

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# Hydro One sees drop in Q1 profit, higher rates



Hydro One saw a seven per cent drop in net income in the first quarter of 2014, despite higher revenue on increased demand. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Hydro One Inc. reported a seven per cent drop in net income in the first quarter, as Ontario's provincially owned electricity distribution company faced higher operating, maintenance and administration costs.

The holding company, which operates subsidiaries involved in electricity trans-

mission and distribution and the telecom industries, said Wednesday that it earned \$240 million in net income for the three months ended March 31. That compared with \$257 million for the same period a year earlier.

Hydro One said it was able to offset some of the higher costs through an increase in

transmission rates, while extremely cold winter increased demand as revenue rose to \$1.7 billion from \$1.6 billion in the same quarter of 2013.

The company paid \$199 million in dividends to the province in the quarter and \$22 million in payments in lieu of corporate income taxes to the Ontario Electricity Fi-

nanical Corporation.

"In the first quarter of 2014, Hydro One drove strong financial performance while making important investments in our system that improve reliability and service for our customers," president and chief executive Carmine Marcello said in a statement.

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# Electricity shaping up to be major election issue in Ottawa

**On the campaign trail.** Tory and NDP candidates say voters are feeling the pinch of higher hydro bills

SEAN MCKIBBON AND  
JOE LOFARO  
ottawa@metronews.ca

You might say the atmosphere on election day will be electric.

"The big issue I'm getting at the door is hydro," said Lisa MacLeod, the incumbent Nepean-Carleton Progressive Conservative candidate. "The high cost of hydro, I'm getting a lot of that."

"I've also been getting a little bit of the gas-plant scandal. People are fed up that they see a billion dollars that could be used for schools, for hospitals, for cancer drugs for children, and they're very upset with that wasted billion dollars."

Standing in her freshly opened campaign office in the middle of Barrhaven's busiest shopping centre on Rio Can Drive, MacLeod presented reporters at a morning press conference with a high-energy campaign pitch promising jobs, an end to the Green Energy Act, which she called un-



Ottawa philanthropist Dave Smith helps Ottawa Centre Liberal incumbent Yasir Naqvi with a campaign sign Wednesday. JOE LOFARO/METRO

sustainable, and a way out of the province's fiscal deficit.

In Ottawa Centre, NDP candidate Jennifer McKenzie said she spent much of the morning knocking on

doors and canvassing voters.

While she said her party supports the Liberals' Green Energy Act, she feels the law aimed at encouraging the establishment of al-



Nepean-Carleton Progressive Conservative incumbent Lisa MacLeod smiles as she sets up for a remote interview at her campaign headquarters. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

ternative, environmentally friendly sources of energy has been mismanaged. And she said rising electricity bills were also a recurring theme among voters she's talked to.

"There's a much better, more pragmatic way to manage the energy system," she said, questioning the Liberal government's decision to sign a \$9.7-billion deal with Samsung to build

wind and solar farms.

"People are also really feeling costs are going up in other areas, from electricity to rents. Even property taxes are going up a lot," said McKenzie.

She said the province needs a fair and transparent jobs program that will include small- and medium-sized business, and she touted her leader's promise to boost minimum wages and cut taxes for small business.

Ottawa Centre MPP Yasir Naqvi erected his first campaign sign Wednesday on the front lawn of Ottawa restaurateur and philanthropist Dave Smith.

Naqvi deflected observations that the Liberal party is threatened by recent scandals such as the cancellation of two gas-fired power plants, which cost taxpayers more than \$1 billion.

"We built 21 gas plants. Nineteen were right," said Naqvi. "From a planning point of view, we need to make sure the community's point of view (is) always heard so that correct planning decisions are made in the front end, not much later on."

In the weeks leading up to the election being called, the Ontario government announced hydro rates would be going up, but the Liberal MPP said when he's out canvassing he hears people talk about jobs and funding the LRT instead.

"It hasn't come up a lot because people recognize the fact that we have done something incredible in Ontario, and that is we do not burn dirty coal to produce electricity anymore," said Naqvi.

"We have gone from using coal as 25 per cent to zero. We are using more renewable sources now to produce electricity. I'm actually getting kudos on that very important, tough decision our government has made."

He said he also gets asked about provincial funding for the Ottawa River Action Plan, which was included in Premier Kathleen Wynne's 2014 budget before the NDP rejected it.

"People want to make sure we are not dumping raw sewage in the Ottawa River," he said.

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Ottawa Centre NDP candidate Jennifer McKenzie is canvassing voters in the riding. CONTRIBUTED



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## Horwath. NDP leader focuses on middle class as she hits the hustings



Andrea Horwath speaks in Toronto on Wednesday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Democrat Leader Andrea Horwath is putting the plight of the middle class front and centre in her party's election campaign, painting the Liberals and Tories as out of touch with the concerns of regular Ontarians.

Horwath sent off her campaign bus with a speech Wednesday morning at the legislature laying out the NDP's two priorities as jobs and easing the cost of living, saying more and more families are struggling to make ends

meet.

She said families are finding it harder to pay their hydro bills and called for a rethink of how Ontario's electricity system is organized.

The NDP would review, but not rip up, contracts with private-sector hydro companies and take other measures to find savings that would let her party hand out a \$100 rebate to ratepayers in 2016, Horwath said, repeating a promise made earlier this year. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# Wynne grins and bears it when McGuinty comes up



Ontario Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne greets employees at MDA robotics in Brampton on Wednesday. FRANK GUNN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Shows some true grit?

Liberal leader hit the hustings and was hit by some hard-hitting questions on former Grit leaders scandals

Kathleen Wynne confronted the ghost of premier past Wednesday as she headed to Dalton McGuinty's former riding on the first official day of the election campaign.

The Liberal leader headed to Ottawa to bolster the campaign of John Fraser, who holds the riding of Ottawa

## Quoted

"We have a fantastic history in Ottawa South ... Dalton McGuinty served that riding so well."

Kathleen Wynne, campaigning in Kitchener

South.

Asked whether she was afraid that scandals from the McGuinty era would sink her party's re-election chances, Wynne put on a brave face.

"We have a fantastic history in Ottawa South," she said while visiting a digital-projection technology company in an NDP-held riding in Kitchener.

"Dalton McGuinty served that riding so well. John Fraser is a terrific MPP and I'm looking forward to meeting with his team later on."

Wynne has faced tough questions in recent months about the cancellation of two gas plants when McGuinty was premier, which could cost up to \$1.1 billion.

Police are investigating the deletion of emails and documents about the unpopular gas plants, which were killed ahead of the 2011 election that reduced the Liberals to minority status.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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# Election is about jobs, Hudak says

**Campaign stop.** Tory leader says Wynne, Horwath running 'personality contest'

The Liberals and New Democrats want to turn the campaign for the June 12 election into a popularity contest instead of focusing on jobs, Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak said Wednesday.

As far as Hudak is concerned, jobs are the only real issue of the campaign, but at his first campaign stop of the day at a factory in Mississauga, he was light on details about how the Conservatives plan to lower electricity rates, reduce the debt and create one million jobs.

"I have no doubt this will be a single issue campaign and my thoughts are with the people who don't have a job right now," he said. "I'm with you, but the Liberals and Kathleen Wynne, all they're focused on is a half-dozen Lib-

eral MPPs and insiders, to get them a job, and quite frankly, they don't deserve it."

Hudak could not avoid questions about his own popularity, however, after Peter Shurman — the former Tory finance critic who quit politics after a dispute with Hudak over expenses — predicted that Wynne will win the election with another Liberal minority.

"The other two leaders, it's clear they're going to run a personality contest," Hudak said when asked about Shurman's prediction. "They're going to promise you all kinds of things each and every day, but they know in their hearts they can't afford them. That's not me. I'm the guy with the turnaround plan to get Ontario working again."

"I think that Tim is fairly robotic," Shurman said in an interview. "He's the best I've ever seen at staying on message, and that's to a fault. I look at Kathleen Wynne ... I find she comes across as sincere." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Ontario PC Leader Tim Hudak greets people at Spin Dessert Café and Bistro while campaigning in Burlington, Ont. on Wednesday. **DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# Focus is on integrity: Greens

Ontario's Green Party says it's time to restore honesty, integrity and good public policy to the province's legislature.

Leader Mike Schreiner kicked off his campaign Wednesday saying the province needs a couple of "Green" voices in government.

He says anyone who's kept an eye on Queen's Park

knows "what a mess this place is."

An example, he says, are what he calls the political games being played with funding for transit by the three main parties.

Schreiner says he can emulate the example of his federal counterpart Elizabeth May, whom he says has received accolades as the

first elected Green voice in Ottawa.

The party, which does not have a seat in the legislature, plans to focus on job creation by supporting small businesses, improving education by ending segregated school boards, and protecting vital resources such as farmland and water.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**



**Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner**  
**FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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## Coupland's honour is selfie-explanatory

Author Douglas Coupland snaps a selfie as he is made an Officer of the Order of Canada by Governor General David Johnston during a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on Wednesday. The selfie was later posted on Coupland's Twitter feed. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS; INSET: TWITTER

# Is Ford getting help, or was he getting Timbits?

**Rob & Doug McFrenzy.** Storm of speculation about whereabouts of Toronto mayor fuelled by student's alleged doughnut-shop sighting



JESSICA SMITH CROSS  
Metro in Toronto



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford  
CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grade 11 student Cayla Clarkson says she didn't know Rob Ford was supposed to be in rehab when she spotted him in a Tim Hortons parking lot and tweeted about it on Tuesday — fuelling the storm of speculation about the mayor's whereabouts.

Clarkson said she saw Ford

get out of his car and walk into the doughnut shop in Toronto wearing a "full black suit" and walk out again wearing a grey sweatshirt.

"He opened the door to the backseat of his car," said Clarkson. "I had my phone out because I was going to take a

picture and he looked at me, like he did not seem happy, he didn't seem pleased. So I just put my phone down.

"When he closed his door, he sort of looked at me again, did a once-over, and that's why I walked away," she said. "I just felt a little uncomfortable."

Doug Ford told reporters at city hall Wednesday it was actually him at the Tim Hortons, and he'd stopped by on his way to council to take pictures with people and hand out T-shirts.

"I think he's just trying to cover for his brother," Clarkson said. "He said he was handing out T-shirts and taking pictures, but I did not see him handing out T-shirts or taking pictures at all. He wasn't interacting with anybody, I didn't seem him talking to anyone," she said.

### International review

## Global study to look at Canada's polar bear trade

Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq says she is confident that a new international review of Canada's trade in polar bear parts will reaffirm this country's conservation of the species.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species will look at the practices of all five polar bear range states, although Canada is the only country that permits commercial trade in polar bears.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### I am your robber

## Cops to suspect: I have you now

Vancouver police didn't travel to a galaxy far, far away to arrest Darth Vader.

Sgt. Randy Fincham says police responded Tuesday to a robbery involving a suspect wearing a Vader mask. The victim was unhurt, but her attacker escaped with a small amount of cash.

A 911 call led police to a suspect, who was not far away and still wearing the mask. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Man's best bud. B.C. tops list for marijuana-related insurance claims for pets

It seems our furry friends are living the high life in B.C. — but not in a good way.

B.C. ranks No. 1 in North America for the most pet insurance claims relating to marijuana toxicity, according to new data from pet insurance provider Trupanion.

Over the past two years, Trupanion has paid \$22,500 in insurance claims to pet owners in B.C., almost half of the total \$54,000 paid across the U.S. and Canada, spokeswoman Britta Gidican told Metro.

California and Washington ranked second and third on the list of 10 regions across North America, while Alberta and Ontario came in fourth and sixth,

respectively.

Dr. Kathy Kramer, a veterinarian at the Vancouver Animal Wellness Hospital, said she wasn't surprised to see B.C. top the list.

"Marijuana here is just so prevalent," she said. "You can get it legally, you can get it illegally just about anywhere in the city."

Although medical marijuana use for pets is a growing trend in Vancouver, Kramer said the high rates of pet insurance claims relating to marijuana toxicity in B.C. are usually the result of animals accidentally consuming their owner's marijuana.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO IN VANCOUVER



B.C. bud from a Vancouver dispensary. METRO FILE

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## Northeastern Nigeria. Extremist Islamic group kills hundreds of people

Islamic militants who have triggered international outrage over the kidnapping of more than 270 Nigerian schoolgirls opened fire on a busy marketplace, killing hundreds in a new spasm of violence in the country's northeast.

The attack escalates Nigeria's growing crisis from a campaign of bombings, massacres and abductions being waged by the Boko Haram terrorist network in its campaign to impose an Islamic state on Africa's most populous nation.

As many as 300 people were killed in the assault late Monday on the town of Gamboru Ngala on Nigeria's border with Cameroon. The extremists opened fire on a marketplace bustling with shoppers taking advantage of the cooler nighttime temperatures in the semi-desert region, then rampaged through the town for 12 hours, setting houses ablaze and shooting those who tried to escape.

The attack and hundreds of casualties were confirmed by Borno state information commissioner Mohammed Bulama.

### Extremist violence

**"Now all Nigerians feel they are involved. Civil society is beginning to coalesce over the plight of the kidnapped girls and in opposition to the violence by Boko Haram and to abuses committed by the military."**

Elizabeth Donnelly, Nigeria Analyst at the Chatham House. She added that if the search for the captured girls is successful, it could bring the extremist violence under control.

Outrage over the missing girls and the government's failure to rescue them brought angry Nigerian protesters into the streets this week.

Boko Haram has tried to root out Western influence by targeting schools, as well as attacking churches, mosques, government buildings and security forces in the country of 170 million, divided between a predominantly Christian south and Muslim north.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Pentagon. U.S. to send less than 10 troops to help find kidnapped Nigerian girls

The Pentagon is sending fewer than 10 military troops to Nigeria as part of the U.S. effort to help find nearly 300 girls kidnapped by the Islamist extremist group Boko Haram.

A Pentagon spokesman says officials have no plans now to launch any military operations.

Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren says the troops

will be arriving in a few days as part of the larger U.S. assistance team to include State Department and Justice Department personnel.

The military members will help with communications, logistics and intelligence planning. There are already about 70 military personnel in Nigeria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Canada pledges to help find kidnapped girls

### 'Repugnant act'

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said that the Canadian government will supply Nigeria with surveillance equipment

In the messy world of competing international interests, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird decided Wednesday that the fate of hundreds of abducted teenage girls in Nigeria would come before all else.

Baird pledged Canada's unwavering support to help free the female students abducted by Islamic extremists, a tragedy that has now gripped the world.

Canada will supply surveillance equipment to help Nigeria find the girls, even though it has long-standing concerns about the country's human rights record, the Harper government said Wednesday.

Baird added that loans of Canadian military hardware to Nigeria would be accompanied by Canadian military personnel to operate it.

"We obviously would have concerns, with Nigeria, with their human rights record and many issues," he said.

Without mentioning it specifically, Baird appeared to be referencing Nigeria's relatively new law that further criminalizes homosexuality. The Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act criminalizes homosexual clubs and organizations, and carries a maximum 14-year prison term.

On Wednesday, Baird made clear there was no way Canada would agree to Nigeria's



Women attend a demonstration Tuesday calling on the government to rescue the kidnapped school girls, outside the defense headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria. SUNDAY ALAMBA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### The kidnappers

Islamic extremist group Boko Haram — which translates as "western education is sinful" — is holding hostage 276 female students from the Chibok girls' school.

- Nigeria has been fighting Boko Haram's Islamic uprising for five years, during which time it has claimed the lives of thousands of Muslims and Christians.

This year, an estimated 1,500 have been killed.

- Boko Haram wants to impose an Islamic state in Nigeria even though half of the country's 170 million citizens are Christians.
- The group's leader threatened to sell the girls and pledges to commit more abductions.



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Supporters cheer ousted Thai PM Yingluck Shinawatra in Bangkok on Wednesday.

SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Court ousts Thailand's PM

A court ousted Thailand's prime minister on Wednesday for abuse of power, accomplishing what anti-government demonstrators have sought to do for the past six months and further widening the country's sharp political divide.

Supporters of deposed Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra called for a huge rally Saturday to protest the ruling by the Constitutional Court, which exercised powers laid

out in a constitution written by a military government after a coup in 2006.

The leader of the anti-government protesters, Suthep Thaugsuban, meanwhile, told his followers that they would stage a "final offensive" on Friday and would achieve their goal of fully ousting the government.

The court found Yingluck guilty of abusing her power by transferring the National Se-

curity Council chief in 2011 to another position. It ruled that the transfer was carried out to benefit her politically powerful family and, therefore, violated the constitution.

The ruling also forced out nine Cabinet members but left nearly two dozen others in their posts, including Deputy Prime Minister Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan, who was appointed the new acting leader.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A bouquet sits atop the burned-out shell of a car at a location where clashes between pro-Russia and Ukrainian forces took place.

MANU BRABO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Putin pulls for delay in

**Ukraine crisis.** Pro-Russia militants say they will carry out planned vote Sunday

ment said.

Many had feared that Sunday's vote on more autonomy would be a flashpoint for further violence between the rebels and Ukrainian troops in the east. Russia annexed the Ukrainian Black Sea peninsula of Crimea in March after residents held a vote and overwhelmingly backed secession.

"We believe that the most important thing is to create direct, full-fledged dialogue between the Kyiv authorities and representatives of southeast Ukraine," Putin said.

"Because of this, we ask that representatives of southeast Ukraine, supporters of federalization in the country, postpone the May 11 referendum in order to create the necessary conditions for such a dialogue."

Despite Putin's comments, pro-Russia militants calling themselves the Donetsk People's Republic said they would still carry out the referendum on Sunday.

Putin also described Ukraine's May 25 presidential election as a move "in the right direction," and said his talk with Burkhalter, who is chairman-in-office for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, encouraged him that "our approaches (to Ukraine) co-

Russia has pulled back its troops from the Ukrainian border, Vladimir Putin told diplomats Wednesday as he urged insurgents in southeast Ukraine to postpone their planned referendum Sunday on autonomy.

In a Moscow meeting with Swiss president Didier Burkhalter, Putin said the Russian troops have been pulled back to their training grounds and locations for "regular exercises," but didn't specify whether those locations were in areas near Ukraine.

Putin also called on Ukraine's military to halt all operations against pro-Russia activists who have seized government buildings and police stations in at least a dozen towns in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine launched a government offensive late last week to take back buildings and towns under control of the insurgents.

At least 35 people, including many rebels, have died in that offensive, the govern-





# back, calls plebiscite

## Quoted

**"We believe that the most important thing is to create direct, full-fledged dialogue between the Kyiv authorities and representatives of southeast Ukraine."**

Russian President Vladimir Putin

incide."

The Russian leader still repeated Russia's long-held stance that constitutional reforms must precede any nationwide vote in Ukraine.

In Berlin, a leading Ukrainian presidential candidate said he was prepared to negotiate a decentraliza-

tion of power as pro-Russia insurgents in the east have demanded.

But Petro Poroshenko, a billionaire chocolate magnate, added that some insurgents in the eastern region understand only "the language of force."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Taking a toll

# Sanctions hurting Europe?

Sanctions against Russia are taking a toll in Europe as well, figures showed Wednesday.

Treasury Undersecretary David Cohen, in Paris as part of the Obama administration's push to bolster European support for broader sanctions, acknowledged that the measures are also

inflicting pain on companies in the United States and especially Europe, whose banks and energy firms have deep Russian interests.

"This is not cost-free for anybody, including the United States. We don't deny the reality that there's more exposure overall in Europe," Cohen told reporters.

He also said the U.S. and Europe were committed to ensuring that Ukraine's May 25 presidential elections take place without interference.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Expected ANC victory

# Polls close in South Africa

Polling stations closed Wednesday evening in elections in South Africa that are expected to see the ruling African National Congress return to power despite a vigorous challenge from opposition parties seeking to capitalize on discontent with corruption and economic

inequality.

Officials will declare final results no earlier than Saturday, allowing time to address any objections to the process.

The election commission said most voting went smoothly. About 25 million South Africans, roughly half the population, registered to vote in the parliamentary elections that will also determine the president.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Kashmir

# Violence flares in Indian election

Violence flared in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Wednesday as millions of Indians voted on the penultimate day of national elections.

An explosion in a polling booth injured a paramilitary soldier, and three other troops were wounded overnight when suspected militants fired at them,

according to Kishore Prasad, spokesman of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force.

No voters were injured and few details were available. The previous two polling days in the region were also marred by violence.

Police said scores of protesters also clashed with patrolling soldiers, who used tear gas to disperse the crowd. Anti-India sentiment runs deep in divided Kashmir. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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# Opponents of abortion can't run as Liberals

**Justin Trudeau.** It's a pro-choice party; they don't want the debate reopened; sitting anti-abortion MPs will be allowed to run

Justin Trudeau says opponents of abortion need not apply to run for the Liberal party in the next election.

And if they do apply, the Liberal leader says they'll be weeded out during the vetting process for nomination applications.

Trudeau says the Liberals now support abortion rights and all candidates in the next election will be expected to



Liberal leader Justin Trudeau during question period. THE CANADIAN PRESS

adhere to that position.

However, he says an exception is being made for incumbent opponents of abortion

who became MPs before the party officially adopted a pro-choice stance, such as such as Toronto MPs John McKay and Judy Sgro. Their beliefs will be "respected to a certain extent," Trudeau said, "but our position as a party is we do not reopen that debate."

Until two years ago, Liberals did not have a party position on abortion, considering it a matter of conscience.

As a result, MPs opposed to abortion formed a vocal minority in the Liberal caucus. "As a party, we are steadfast in our belief ... that it is not for any government to legislate what a woman chooses to do with her body, and that is the bottom line there," Trudeau said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



## Scan this and watch a ROM expert on their whale bone recovery project

"There's nothing on Earth that I've ever encountered that smells worse than a dead whale." Scan the photo above with your Metro News app to watch a video of the Royal Ontario Museum's Mark Engstrom discussing how the museum's whale bone recovering project will work — and likely take two years to complete. The museum in Toronto will help preserve the skeletons of two beached blue whales that washed ashore on the west coast of Newfoundland, including the rotting blue whale seen here on the shore in Trout River, N.L. in this April 27 photo. HO • NTV NEWS, DON BRADSHAW FILE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## Lhokbani, Indonesia. Alleged rape victim faces court-ordered beating

An Indonesian woman who was gang-raped may be caned publicly for violating Islamic law, an official said Wednesday.

The 25-year-old widow said she was raped by eight men who allegedly found her with a married man in her house. The men reportedly beat the man, doused the two with sewage, and then turned them over to Islamic police.

The head of Islamic Shariah law in the district, Ibrahim Latief, said his office has recommended the widow and the married man be caned nine times for violating religious

law, pending an investigation. Latief contended they violated Shariah law by being in the same room together. He said they also admitted they had sex earlier.

Indonesia has a policy of secularism but allows Aceh, a predominantly Muslim province on the northern tip of Sumatra, to implement a version of Sharia Islamic law.

Police have arrested three of the eight men and are hunting for the others. The criminal charge of rape carries a maximum penalty of 15 years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Providence, R.I.

## Fallen acrobats may never walk again

Two women among eight who fell during a circus performance in Rhode Island have spinal cord injuries and time will tell whether they will walk again.

Their neurosurgeon says the two can feel their legs but have only limited movement. It may be a year or two before it's clear whether they'll heal completely and walk again.

Doctors say all of the acrobats will require physical therapy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Help slow to arrive to remote disaster zone

## Abi Barik, Afghanistan.

President pledges to help province rebuild following devastating mudslide

Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Wednesday toured the site of last week's horrific landslide in the country's remote northeast, pledging to provide relief to families displaced by the disaster that killed hundreds of people.

Karzai's office said he met the victims in the village of Abi Barik in Badakhshan province, where around 700 families were forced to flee their homes due to the possibility of further landslides and flooding.

During the visit, Karzai spoke with villagers being



A child plays near the site of Friday's landslide that buried the village of Abi Barik in Badakhshan province, northeastern Afghanistan, Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

housed in tents and also promised to rebuild homes for the landslide's survivors.

Aid groups and the government have rushed to the remote province bordering Tajikistan and China with

food, shelter and water. But those affected have complained that help has been slow to arrive.

Authorities have yet to provide an exact figure on the number of people killed

in the May 2 landslide, and estimates have ranged from 250 to 2,700. Officials say it will be impossible to dig up all the bodies buried deep under a sea of mud.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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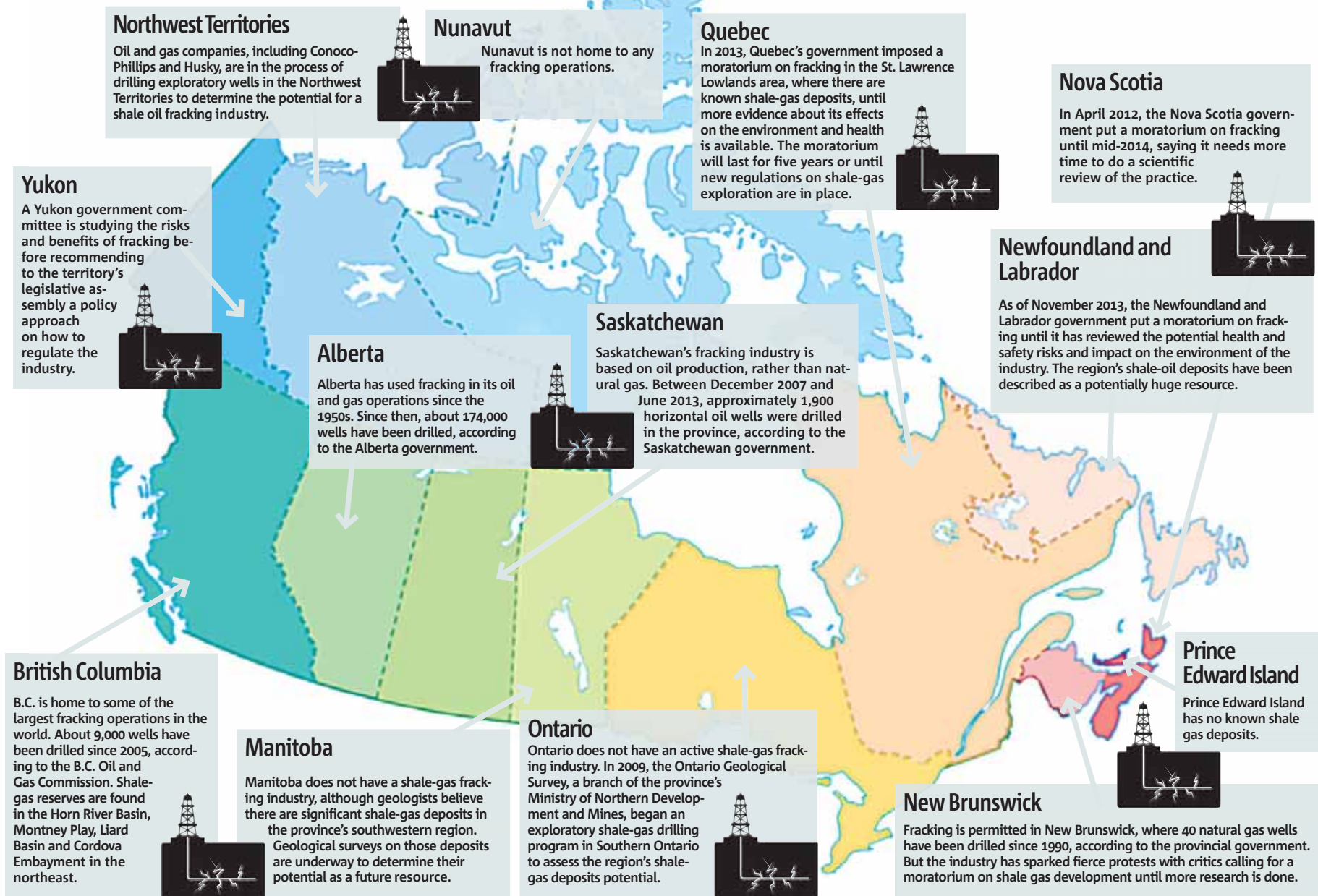
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# Tracking Canadian fracking

Metro's look at the controversial practice of fracking continues with Day 2 of our three-day feature. While it's booming in B.C., other provinces have been more cautious, imposing moratoriums until there's more evidence on its health-and-safety effects. Many countries, including France and Germany, have also imposed bans or moratoriums on fracking.

THANDI FLETCHER, METRO IN VANCOUVER



## The industry

### Concerns and safety

After nearly a decade on the inside of what was once B.C.'s largest natural gas company, Robert Falls is well aware of some people's wariness of the oil and gas industry.

"It's very much in our nature to characterize them as arrogant or uncaring or evil," he said. "If you're Joe Public and you're looking at that industry,

it's huge, it's powerful, it's ... intimidating."

But, in his experience, that assessment is simply not fair. Energy companies are concerned about the environment, and the health and safety of people living near oil and gas operation sites, he said. It's in their best interests to make it a priority or they wouldn't be able to keep operating, he said.

But, Falls said, despite the industry's best efforts to reduce the risk of disaster, things can

and do go wrong. He believes energy companies need to do a better job of mitigating that risk and listening to the public's concerns.

#### A Green Light for Safety

During his tenure in the 1990s as manager of the environment division of West-coast Energy, now operating as Spectra, Falls said his team had the green light to do "whatever had to be done" to safeguard the health and safety of people

in the communities in which they operated.

"I don't think people realize how much time, effort and money is spent on managing environmental, health and safety issues," he said.

That sentiment is echoed by industry leaders, who claim the health and safety of residents living near fracking sites is a top concern.

Andy Calitz, chief executive officer for LNG Canada, the entity behind a proposed

## The environment

### "Are there concerns? Yes, we are at all times sensitive to our environmental impact."

Andy Calitz, chief executive officer for LNG Canada

liquefied natural gas project in the northwestern B.C. town of Kitimat, said energy companies are constantly studying fracking and its impact on water

and air quality.

"Are there concerns? Yes, we are at all times very sensitive to our environmental impact," he said. "It is high on our agenda."

Geoff Morrison, manager of B.C. operations for the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, said the organization is trying to do a better job of assuring the public about the industry's practices.

"We recognize there is a broad concern about an



# Tricks of the gas trade

**Fracking 101.** Northern Lights College in B.C. teaches students the ins and outs of working the fields — and staying safe



**EMILY JACKSON**  
Metro in Vancouver

The best time to frack is in the dead of winter.

Temperatures drop to -45 C, but to drill to gas trapped in shale in Northeastern British Columbia's Montney Play, rigs must be set up when the region's swampy muskeg is frozen so they don't sink.

Some city dwellers have perceptions that natural gas is a fast way to riches. Who can blame them? With the government promising billions in royalties from extracting gas and shipping it to yet-to-be-built liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants on the coast and then to Asia.

But that simply isn't the case. "It's not a quick buck," explains Stacy Smith, program chair of trades at the Northern Lights College, during a tour of the simulated wellsite at the Fort St. John campus. Smith is the dean of a program that trains field operators and power engineers to drill, operate and monitor wells. Safety is his top goal.

"A huge amount of time and skill goes into making sure the gas is safe to move and use for everybody — it is not a simple process."

Yet it's the process that will power B.C.'s push for LNG plants. For every billion spent on the LNG facilities, \$3.86 billion will be spent upstream, according to Fort St. John, B.C., mayor Lori Ackerman.

Not much is known about the long-term effects of fracking, a technology that dates back to the 1950s but exploded in use since 2000. But concerns are mounting about chemicals

industrial process people aren't familiar (with) or is new to them," he said.

## "Things Do Go Awry"

Still, Falls said the industry is not perfect. During his seven years at Westcoast Energy, Falls recalls one pipeline rupture — a sour gas leak near Fort Nelson, B.C. Fortunately, it was "very small," he said, and was quickly brought under control.

But the incident still underscores the risks associated with



Stacy Smith is the dean of a program at Northern Lights College that trains field operators and power engineers. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

seeping into groundwater, methane escaping into the air, seismic activity and flaring of sour gas.

## What they learn

Natural gas is one of the cleanest burning fossil fuels, but it's tough to get to, Smith says as he walks through the facility where, annually, 48 students train.

It requires a massive amount of energy. Once a well is drilled deep enough and sealed with concrete to prevent ground water contamination, water, sand and chemicals are pumped down to horizontally fracture

the land and release the shale gas.

The gas bubbles up to a wellhead with pressure monitors and an emergency shut down valve. It can be "pretty nasty" when it comes out of the ground — if it contains hydrogen sulphide, it can kill. It can't be cleaned up. Instead, it's burned off in a process known as flaring.

Students learn to remove the hydrogen sulphide and to dehumidify the gas. After these processes, the product is mostly methane and ready to sell.

## Why we frack

"It's the nature of the beast,

it's the only way to access the shale gas," Smith says.

Some regions, including Quebec, have banned fracking.

"They don't want to take the chance, I think, to have the contamination potentially happen," he said.

But it's riskier in places with shallow shale formations, also known as plays. B.C.'s plays are deep — between 1,700 and 4,000 metres below the surface — compared to Quebec's (500 to 3,300 metres deep), according to the National Energy Board.

There are strict regulations around sealing wells to ensure chemicals don't leak into the ground water.

"The people that are up here, they're just like me and you. They're family people, they have kids, they don't want to see their water contaminated."

## What can go wrong

"It's like anything that can go wrong," Smith said, especially operations involving massive machinery with moving parts.

Sometimes it's circumstances, sometimes there's a flaw that's missed, sometimes it's human error.

Technology improves safety, he says, pointing to emergency shut down valves that close automatically or electric monitors that alert a production facility immediately if something is wrong.

"As much as it kind of runs smoothly, there's always glitches that happen all the time, so somebody has to be there to fix them," he said. "Things break."

## On opportunities

There's a two-year waitlist to get into the program, where graduates can expect starting salaries of \$65,000 a year plus a healthy dose of overtime.

Even though job prospects are good, a lot hinges on the expected demand from the LNG plants.

"Everybody's sort of in this holding pattern, you know, kind of waiting," he said.



## MORE IN OUR FRACKING SERIES

### Friday

- **Cautionary tale.** Alberta ranchers warn British Columbia to heed warnings.

### Online

- **Photo and map.** Stacy Smith takes us on a tour.

## In pictures



## 1 Covering up. What's a wellhead?

Heavy-duty wellheads are placed atop holes after drilling is complete. The blue attachment on the right is an emergency shutdown valve that cuts off the gas supply in case of a fault in the system. **ALL PHOTOS MATT KIELTYKA/METRO**

## 2 Expensive operation. Rigs

This \$6-million rig uses a kelly drive to bore into the earth and get to the shale gas. It used to be operational, but companies donated it to the Northern Lights College wellsite training facility.

## 3 Getting it out. Jacks that pump

A pump jack helps move oil out of the ground if there's not enough pressure for it to flow naturally.

## 4 Fine balance. Reading wellheads

Field operators measure pressure readings on wellheads to ensure it isn't too high (could indicate a potential explosion) or too low, which means the gas won't move through the pipelines.

## 5 The final step. Removing the deadly stuff

Once gas comes out of the ground, it must go through a variety of buildings and pipes to remove any deadly hydrogen sulphide and to be dehumidified.





# No baby boom after the bust this time around

**Birth of fear.** As with the Great Depression, the birth rate fell around the world after the Great Recession in 2008, but it has yet to rise back up

The financial crisis that followed the collapse of U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers in 2008 did more than wipe out billions in wealth and millions of jobs. It also sent birth rates tumbling around the world as couples found themselves too short of money or too fearful about their finances to have children. Six years later, birth rates haven't bounced back.

For those who fear an overcrowded planet, this is good news. For the economy, not so good.



In this 1930 file photo, a nurse holds a baby in Philadelphia. When the economy falls, like it did in the '30s and 2008, the birth rate also falls.  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

We tend to think economic growth comes from working harder and smarter. But economists attribute up to a third of it to more people joining the workforce each year than leaving it. The result is more producing, earning and spending.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Market Minute



**DOLLAR**  
91.79¢ (-0.13¢)



**TSX**  
14,656.40 (+44.11)



**OIL**  
\$100.77 US (+\$1.27)



**GOLD**  
\$1,288.90 US (-\$19.70)

**Natural gas:** \$4.74 US (-\$0.05)  
**Dow Jones:** 16,518.54 (+117.52)



## An unmoveable feast of mangoes in India

Indian labourers sort mangoes at a fruit market in Hyderabad, India, Wednesday. Mangoes start arriving in Indian markets in April, providing a juicy, delicious respite from summer temperatures and humidity as they start climbing to oppressive levels. Piles of mangoes are cooled in refrigerators or buckets of ice-cold water or pureed to create refreshing drinks that cut through the scorching heat. Indians are feasting on some of the world's most succulent mangoes after the European Union banned imports of the fruit from India this month, producing a glut and rock-bottom prices for local consumers. MAHESH KUMAR A./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Short on time? Perhaps that's due to spending it all watching YouTube, Netflix

Anglophone Canadians are now spending almost a third of their time online watching video, according to a report by the Media Technology Monitor.

In a survey with 4,009 English-speaking Canadians conducted between Oct. 7 and Dec. 1 of last year about 75 per cent of the respondents said they watched some online video monthly.

Two-thirds of them said they regularly watched videos on YouTube, 42 per cent streamed TV content, 34 per cent sat down for full movies, 29 per cent used Netflix, and 26 per cent said they watched news and sports videos.

While mobile streaming is growing, most were still using

a computer to watch online video.

About 83 per cent of those polled said they use a laptop or desktop computer to access online video, while about one in three sometimes use a smartphone and one in four stream with a tablet or Internet-connected TV.

MTM noted that in particular, watching TV shows on non-computer devices grew significantly between 2012 and 2013.

Among the respondents who said they regularly watched TV content online, 29 per cent said they used a tablet to stream, which was up 81 per cent from 2012.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Nintendo. In real life about 10% of population is gay, in Tomodachi Life it's 0%

Nintendo isn't allowing gamers to play as gay in an upcoming life simulator game.

The publisher of such gaming franchises as The Legend of Zelda and Mario Bros. said Tuesday it wouldn't bow to pressure to allow players to engage in romantic activities with characters of the same sex in English editions of Tomodachi Life. This follows a social media campaign launched by fans last month seeking virtual equality for the game's characters, which are modeled after real people.

"Nintendo never intended to make any form of social commentary with the launch of Tomodachi Life," Nintendo of America Inc. said in a state-



A screenshot from the video game, Tomodachi Life.  
NINTENDO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ment. "The relationship options in the game represent a playful alternate world rather than a real-life simulation. We hope that all of our fans will see that Tomodachi Life was intended to be a whimsical and quirky game, and that we were absolutely not trying to provide social commentary."

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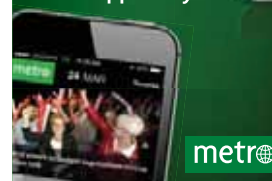
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# THE MOTHER OF ALL HOLIDAYS

Mother's Day was always a special event in my parents' household, because it meant I was attempting to be an adult on a scale I've never quite recaptured in my adulthood.

Back then I bought flowers, wrote my own cards, and picked out gifts, including a large, framed stock photo of a rose on a keyboard that would have been an amazing gift if my mother was the manager of a Super 8.

Even — and this is why it's always been the Mother of All Holidays in my mind — tried to cook.

If I were to add up the number of times in my life where I attempted to prepare a full meal, it's likely Mother's Day would be responsible for at least five of them — so around half the meals I've ever cooked have been for Mom.

That's the kind of outstanding son I am.

Now I live in a different city and, like most adult sons, I make



HE SAYS

**John Mazerolle**

metronews.ca

dream.

A fever dream of research.

**Mother's Day By The Numbers:**

a point on Mother's Day of letting my mother know that I exist and that I know she exists, too.

This seems to touch her deeply.

I suppose it's better than leaving bread crumbs and runny yolk on her bed sheets.

Focusing on love instead of buying something saves Mom and I from the crass commercialization of yet another Hallmark holiday, while coincidentally saving me from the high price of a Hallmark card. Mommy dearest, indeed.

I've compiled some numbers to show the big business that Mother's Day has become.

I think you'll find the stats as surprising as I did when they occurred to me in a fever

**1:** Average number of mothers per lifetime, per person in Canada.

**\$23.2 billion:** Amount that is expected to be spent on Mother's Day this year in North America.

**\$23.1 billion:** Amount that will go to the richest 1 per cent of mothers.

**63:** Percentage of U.S. mothers who will get food stamps in bed.

**7.2:** Average number of carnations required for a mother to believe her child loves her.

**890,000:** Number of pre-written cards with Mother's Day poetry rhyming love, glove, dove and above.

**4:** Number of pre-written cards with Mother's Day poetry rhyming love and shove.

**100 per cent:** Amount KFC, Taco Bell and other corporations love mothers, according to their Twitter feeds.

**10,000:** Number of "Awww"s about to ring out around Canada.

**0:** Mother's better than mine.

## ZOOM

### Boo-boos are hard to bear



Mango, a 19-year-old male Syrian brown bear, rests on a bed as zoo veterinarians and staff prepare him for surgery in the Ramat Gan Zoological Center's animal hospital near Tel Aviv, Israel, Wednesday. The 250-kilogram bear was going into surgery to repair a herniated disc in his back after it was discovered in an X-ray. ARIEL SCHALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Syrian bear goes in for surgery

In Israel, a 19-year-old Syrian brown bear named Mango underwent surgery Wednesday to repair a herniated disc, said Sagit Horowitz, a spokeswoman for the Ramat Gan Zoological Center near Tel Aviv.

Zoologists first noticed Mango had a problem when he started to show signs of paralysis in his hind legs, said Dr. Merav Shamir, who led the surgery on the furry patient.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### They've got his back

"It started acutely," said Shamir. "He wasn't able to move his right hind limb and it progressively deteriorated over the following 48 hours to become completely paralyzed on the hind limbs."

"I'm nervous now — I'll be happier in a few hours," Shamir said before the hours-long surgery began.

"I wish him luck."

Veterinarians will know in the coming weeks whether Mango makes a full recovery.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

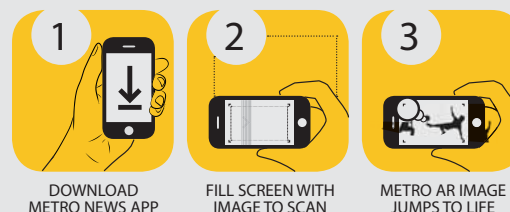
#### A potential lifesaver

Such procedures aren't uncommon at the Ramat Gan Zoological Center, the premier zoo of Israel. Last year, veterinarians there used acupuncture to cure the chronic ear infection of a 14-year-old Sumatran tiger.

- Shamir said other bears with a similar disc problem have been euthanized. The surgery Mango underwent is novel for bears, though it's often performed on small dogs.

## METRO AUGMENTED REALITY

SEE THE NEWS COME ALIVE...



In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on page 18 in News, page 30 in Life and page 36 in Sports

To see pages from Metro spring to life, simply download or update the Metro News app available from your device's app store and follow these three easy steps:

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## MetroTube

### Watch this guy touch the sky



ANDREW FIFIELD  
metronews.ca

Fighter pilot tends to join gigs like astronaut and race car driver on the list of cool jobs many of us, at least once, said we'd have when we grew up.

Of course, life intervened and shuffled most of the many onto other career tracks while the few stuck it out long enough to achieve the white-knuckle life.

We don't know if the younger version of photographer Blair Bunting had similar dreams, but at least he got to take to the skies in a USAF Thunderbirds F-18 for one day. And his cooler-than-ice handling of it was all captured on rather dizzying video.



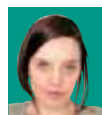
SCREENGRAB

(Via Jaron Schneider on YouTube)



# A subscription service that won't fit through the mail slot

**But it's nice to look at!** Art delivery service aims to take the weirdness out of art acquisition



**BACKSTAGE PASS**  
Jen Traplin  
ottawa@metronews.ca

If the phrase "art acquisition" intimidates you or art galleries just aren't your thing, check out Art Delivered — a local subscription-based service that sends small pieces of artwork right to your door.

Catherine Gutsche launched Art Delivered just over two years ago.

"Marketing and selling art is a tricky business that involves a great deal of hard work and many hours outside of studio time. Each artist must do the grunt work individually and we would all prefer to be in our studios working on our art instead of being salespeople, delivery staff and accountants," Gutsche explains.

"I thought, if a number of artists got together to market our work as a group, we'd have less time outside our studios and more power to get our work in front of more people. But, there are plenty of websites out there that sell art in groups so we needed a different concept."

The idea for Art Delivered stemmed from an artists' BBQ. Gutsche was invited to where everyone brought a small painting with them that would be secretly exchanged with an-



Art Delivered sends small paintings right to your door. CATHERINE GUTSCHE

## Quoted

"Investing in a small painting would not be expensive, it would be more of a fun adventure than something scary and would also help each of us introduce ourselves to new patrons ..."

Catherine Gutsche, creator, Art Delivered

other artist at the event.

"It was so much fun getting a new painting and not knowing whose work you would get or what the painting would look like. This was the concept I wanted to bring to Art Delivered — the element of adventure and surprise," she says.

"Investing in a small painting would not be expensive; it would be more of a fun adventure than something scary and would also help each of us introduce ourselves to new patrons who could go off to our websites to see more of our work and perhaps purchase

something larger or come to our exhibitions."

Gutsche compares Art Delivered to a subscription to National Geographic — you know you'll get a variety of articles on different subjects. Art Delivered sends subscribers a similarly diverse selection of art.

All of the artists whose pieces are offered through Art Delivered work in a variety of mediums, from watercolour and mixed media to oil and fibre.

Most of the pieces sent to subscribers are gallery depth, so they can sit on a shelf or



Art Delivered's small-sized art can be easily displayed in the home. CATHERINE GUTSCHE

## Details

To subscribe, visit [art-delivered.ca](http://art-delivered.ca)

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# Remembering a great storyteller

**Farley Mowat.** Canadian author was outspoken about many social, environmental issues

Canadian author Farley Mowat, a master storyteller and tireless defender of nature and wildlife, has died at age 92, his assistant confirmed Wednesday.

From the time he was 13, Mowat was fiercely dedicated to writing about the natural world. As a young teen he started a magazine called Nature Lore and had a column in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix.

He went on to write some 40 books, many based on his own adventures and travels. He said he was lucky to be able to combine his two passions, writing and nature, calling it "the only subject I really want to write about."

Throughout his life, Mowat was adamant that humans learn to live in harmony with the natural world.

"It's a matter of survival," he told The Canadian Press in a 2006 interview. "Either we learn to do this, or we cease to exist. We have no God-given right to survive forever. We have screwed up so badly in so many ways so obviously that only utterly stupid species would consider that we have much of a future, as things stand."

"Only by recognizing how far off track we've gone are we likely to be able to recover our footing and carry on."

One of his most famous books, *Never Cry Wolf*, is said to have changed the way people saw wolves; after the Russian version was published, the government there even banned the killing of one of Mowat's fa-

vourite creatures.

Mowat was born in Belleville, Ont., in 1921. The son of a librarian, he grew up in Windsor, Ont., and Saskatoon. He studied at the University of Toronto. His novels and other non-fiction works have been translated into more than 20 languages.

A remarkable storyteller, Mowat said the pleasure he

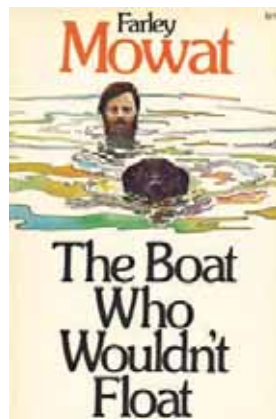
got from writing was paramount.

"My motives have been selfish in a peculiar way," he said, "not to attempt to gain recognition, fame, to become an icon, to become a Conrad Black or somebody like that, but simply to satisfy my own appetite for good stories."

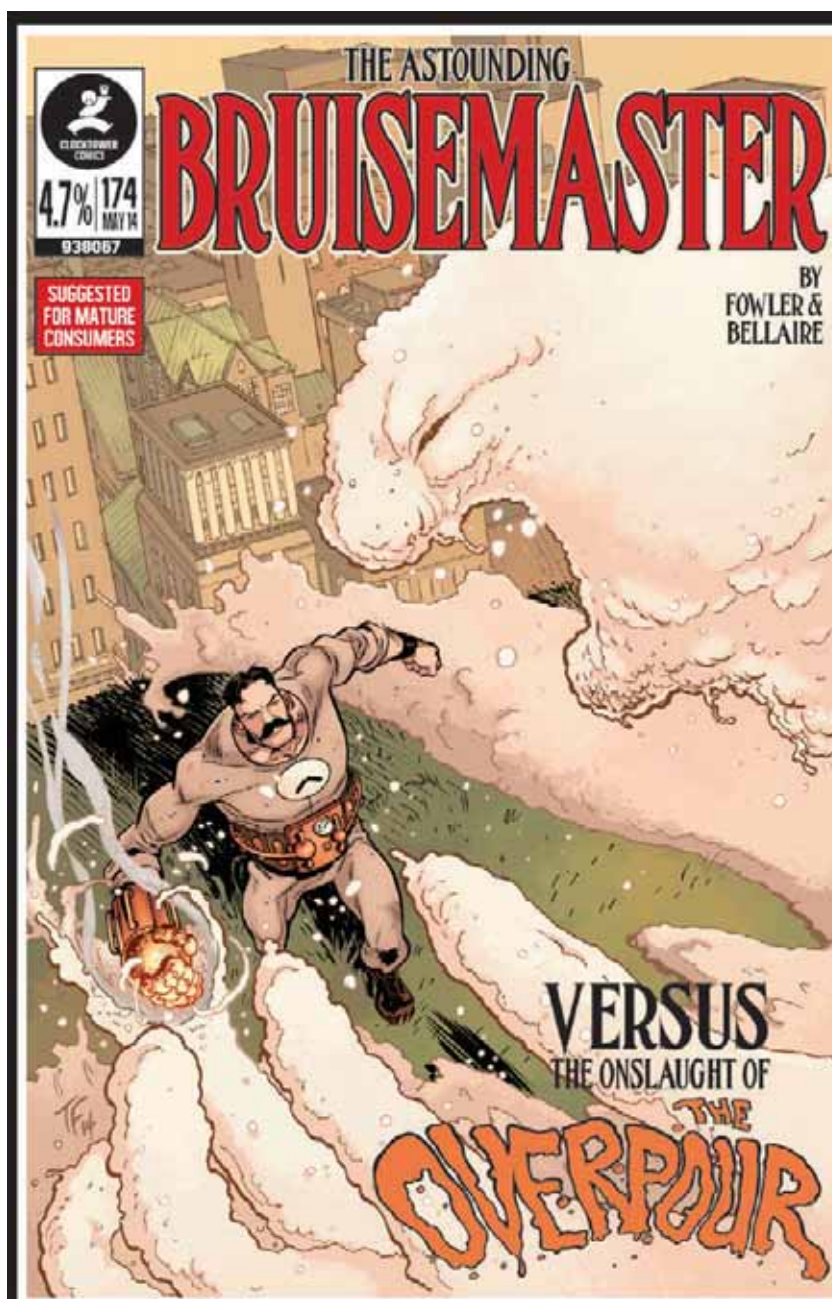
He was awarded the

Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal in 1956, the Governor General's Award for Lost in the Barrens in 1956, the Leacock Medal for Humour for *The Boat Who Wouldn't Float* in 1970, the Order of Canada in 1981 and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Fund for Animal Welfare in 2003.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Author Farley Mowat has died at age 92. BILL BECKER/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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# Foxx brings electricity to Spider-Man

**Electro.** Metro talks to Jamie Foxx on playing a sympathetic villain

**MATT PRIGGE**  
Metro World News

Since 2004's one-two punch of *Collateral* and *Ray* — the latter which won him a Best Actor Oscar — Jamie Foxx hasn't had too many chances to cut loose. (For the record, he's had small comic parts in *Horrible Bosses* and *Due Date*.) In *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* he gets to have fun — sort of. As Max Dillon, a frustrated and ignored scientist turned into the villain Electro, Foxx gets to play the villain, albeit a tragic one with a sympathetic genesis. But if he comes back for future instalments, Foxx can't wait to go full-on bad.

## What is your own history with Spider-Man?

There were only three networks when I was a kid. When *The Electric Company* came



Actor Jamie Foxx plays Electro, a tragic and sympathetic villain, in the newly released *Spider-Man 2*. CONTRIBUTED

on, and Morgan Freeman was the host, they would play Spider-Man in between the educational stuff. I was blown away, because that's the only time you see a superhero. There were no cartoons. You could only watch cartoons on Saturday — if you did your homework. You'd go outside and do your webs, or you're in

your car with your mom, saying, "Look, ma, my web." "You ain't got no web, shut up."

## Are your daughters into Spider-Man?

My daughter is three years old. She loves Spider-Man, out of nowhere. She can spell it. She trips people out on how

she can spell it. And you don't know where they get it from. Spider-Man's just this thing.

## Were you reluctant to play the villain?

No! Not at all. And electricity — you can't really kill electricity. I'm hoping if they do *The Sinister Six* that you'll

be able to see him fully turn into the villain. Villains get to have more fun.

## He's a very sympathetic villain — at least initially.

Yeah. That's what's great about the Spider-Man franchise: All of the villains start from another place. They're misunder-

stood. They're not like, "I'm going to take over the world!" I just want to get the people back who did me wrong.

## He can be very vulnerable, too. Was that what intrigued you as an actor?

People have empathy for him — where he's not just some guy you don't care about.

## Box office

### Sequel kicks off summer season

The *Amazing Spider-Man 2* swung into North American theatres with a \$91.6-million US debut, kicking off Hollywood's summer season. 2007's *Spider-Man 3*, by comparison, opened with \$151.1 million US. Sony has a lot riding on Marc Webb's version of the web slinger, starring Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone. It has plans for two *Spider-Man* sequels and two spinoffs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Martin Doherty, Lauren Mayberry and Iain Cook of Chvrches.  
CINDY ORD/GETTY IMAGES FOR SIRIUSXM

# Chvrches have paid their dues

**Hit-makers.** New to the fame game, synth Scottish band remains down-to-earth



**RICHARD PECKETT**  
Metro World News in London



Though Chvrches' first single, *Lies*, appeared to drop from nowhere to a flurry of click-happy fans on YouTube, the members have all done their time with other outfits.

"Some people might perceive us as a band that has broken in a year and has gone from nothing to sizeable venues everywhere, but that's not the truth behind the personalities in the band," says keyboardist Martin Doherty. "You can't get to this point in your career without understanding what it means to go through seven levels of s—."

The band also includes guitarist Iain Cook and singer Lauren Mayberry, whose otherworldly siren-like vocals coupled with the band's perky 1980s synth has taken their debut album *The Bones of What You Believe* from must-have desktop download to

venue floor-filler.

In conversation, as onstage, the members of this Scottish band have a palpable rapport. But unlike the images they might project onstage, they insist that they are defiantly not cool.

Mayberry shares an anecdote: "A friend said to me recently, 'Technically you have all the hallmarks of what could be a hipster but I know what you're really like and I can't think of anyone less hipster-ish.'"

"I'm a card-carrying nerd," boasts Cook.

Doherty seeks to differentiate himself.

"I have a high level of technical understanding."

And with this, Mayberry leans into him. "That's exactly what a nerd would say. It's interesting to know and learn things."

## Quoted

**"You can't get to this point in your career without understanding what it means to go through seven levels of s—."**

Martin Doherty, keyboardist, Chvrches  
on achieving success as a musician after years of hard work

## Music

### Imagine Dragons, Lorde set to play MMVAs

Las Vegas rockers Imagine Dragons and New Zealand singer Lorde have been announced as performers at next month's MuchMusic Video Awards.

Imagine Dragons have had a breakout year with their hit *Radioactive*, while

Lorde has struck gold with her single *Royals*. Both are leading contenders heading into the upcoming Billboard Music Awards.

MuchMusic also announced that voting has opened for the MMVA categories that are voted on by fans. Details can be found on the MuchMusic website. The MuchMusic Video Awards, which are celebrating their 25th year, take place June 15.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Books

### Princess Diaries to hit bookshelves after 5-year break

Meg Cabot is returning as author of *The Princess Diaries* in 2015, but this time will focus on Mia Thermopolis's life as an adult.

Just like her fans, Mia has grown up, and *Royal Wedding* sees her prepare

for marriage to beau Michael. At the same time, it emerges that Mia has a half-sister, Olivia Grace, who, just like Mia in the original novels, must now come to terms with being an ordinary girl and part of a royal family.

As such, Olivia is to receive her own spin-off series starting with *From the Notebooks of a Middle School Princess*. *Royal Wedding* will be the 11th *Princess Diaries* book. AFP



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## 3rd season. Series is back in Black (and Orange)

Netflix has ordered 13 additional episodes of *Orange Is the New Black*, its comedy set in a women's prison. The show will go on to a third season, according to a post on Instagram from actress Laura Prepon. Season two of the comedy series, which was developed by Weeds creator Jenji Kohan, will arrive June 6 on Netflix.

*Orange Is the New Black* follows Piper (Taylor Schilling) during her stay in a U.S. federal penitentiary. The young woman is sentenced to 15 months for having transported

drugs for her former lesbian lover, played by Laura Prepon (That '70s Show).

As a result, she is forced to trade a comfortable life with her fiancé Larry (Jason Biggs) for an orange jumpsuit and the gritty living conditions of a women's prison. On the inside, she ends up striking an unexpected alliance with a group of eccentric and loud-talking inmates. The series is inspired by the true story of Piper Kerman, who spent 15 months in a Connecticut prison between 2004 and 2005. **AFP**



Laura Prepon, left, and Taylor Schilling in *Orange Is the New Black*, which has been renewed for a third season. **CONTRIBUTED**



## Jordan and Nick take the next step by step

Backstreet Boy Nick Carter and New Kid on the Block Jordan Knight have worked together before — on their joint-group project, NKOTBSB — and now, they're getting together again. Carter and Knight are reuniting for Nick & Knight, a collaborative album to be released Sept. 2, and a headlining tour this fall. Fans who pre-order the album get an immediate download of their song *Just the Two of Us*. **MEREDITH ENGEL/METRO WORLD NEWS**

Nick Offerman

## Burly actor joins A Walk in the Woods

The actor known for playing Ron Swanson on *Parks and Recreation* has just joined the cast of the indie film adapted from Bill Bryson's iconic book, *The Walk*, **THE WRAP**.com reports.

Nick Offerman will join Emma Thompson and Kristen Schaal in the supporting cast of *A Walk in the Woods*. Robert Redford and Nick Nolte will co-star as Bill Bryson and his hiking companion.

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George Clooney ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

## Just call him groomzilla? George is set on walking down the aisle this fall

If you think George Clooney's surprise engagement to Amal Alamuddin came quickly, just wait until the save-the-date cards go out. Clooney is reportedly wasting no time in tying the knot, with a fast-approaching wedding date, according to Radar Online.

"The wedding is to take place in September," a source says. "They've told family

and friends they will only disclose the location at the last minute, and it will be very private. Neither George nor Amal want the wedding to be a public affair — and her family doesn't, either."

And the wedding isn't the only bit of planning on the fast track, as Clooney and Alamuddin "definitely want kids ASAP," the source says.

## Biebs cozies up to Miami model after spotting her on Instagram

Justin Bieber's on-again, off-again relationship with Selena Gomez must really be off again, as the pop star apparently has been cozying up to 18-year-old Miami-based model Yovanna Ventura, according to E! News.

Bieber apparently first spotted Ventura on Instagram and reached out to her, meeting up with her when he was in Miami in April and then this month in Las Vegas before heading to



Justin Bieber

L.A., where they were spotted acting "like a couple" on the Venice Beach boardwalk.

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

### The Word



## Tabloid pays price for J.K. Rowling 'sob story' claim

A British tabloid has apologized and paid damages to Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling over an article about her time as a single mother.

Rowling brought a libel case against the Daily Mail after it alleged in an article in September that she told

a false "sob story" on how people at her church stigmatized and taunted her for being a single mother on welfare. The newspaper report was based on an essay Rowling wrote for a charity describing her experiences some 20 years ago.

The paper printed an apology Wednesday stating that Rowling in fact did not make any false claims. The paper said it had agreed to pay "substantial damages" and legal costs to Rowling, who will donate the money to charity. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Miley Cyrus

## Miley recovering from sudden illness with 'crazy honey and lavender'

Miley Cyrus is just fine, y'all. The Wrecking Ball singer resumed her world tour in London after a sudden illness landed her in the hospital and caused her to cancel dates for three weeks.

But before she took to the stage, Cyrus wanted to make sure everyone knew that reports she'd suffered a drug overdose were false. "I didn't have a drug overdose. I took some s---ty antibiotics that a

doctor gave me for a sinus infection and I had a reaction," she said at a press conference at London's O2 Arena before her return performance. "I'm feeling good, I'm alive — so that's f---ing awesome. I'm the poster child for good health." She's even taken drastic steps to maintain her health: "I'm on this crazy vitamin rush and crazy honey and lavender. I learned a lot about taking care of myself."

### Twitter



@JamesFrancoTV

"50 shades of batman and robin w/ Spider-Man"



@pattonoswalt

Totally just saw the green dragon from GAME OF THRONES drinking at Little Dom's.



@oliviawilde

This year, instead of attending the "Met Ball", I leaked milk, and ate an entire napkin while inhaling a felafel.

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# 3 LIFE

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## Tips from the lips of an Angel

### Model management.

From hot-power yoga sessions to facial massages for breakouts, Lindsay Ellingson shares all her tricks

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Metro World News

We've all had those moments: You want to get rid of bloat in a week's time for a big event or need to turn your complexion around in 24 hours for a big job interview. With a long list of big-time catwalks including Chanel, Chloé and Prada, and five years as a Victoria's Secret Angel under her belt, model Lindsay Ellingson has become a master at solving a beauty problem quickly. She reveals some of her tricks for looking fresh:

### Start on the inside

"You can just tell when a girl looks sick or is too thin. I get light-headed and my energy fades. It's good to eat lots of clean, hearty meals so that you're not starving yourself — something like chicken, sweet potato and broccoli. I don't like putting food in my body that makes me feel toxic, so I always carry almonds in my purse. I'll eat a cheeseburger if I want one, but I'll just balance it out with a green juice. I eat less sugar, it just helps my skin glow and stops my energy levels from spiking."

### Put the Starbucks runs on pause

"I love cold-pressed, iced black coffee but caffeine is dehydrating so I drink Kusmi Detox tea instead."



CONTRIBUTED

### Add some heat to your yoga

"I've been doing hot power yoga four times a week and feel more toned than ever. It's not as hot as Bikram — I tried that once and almost passed out! Be in tune with your body and listen to it — if you're tired, it's OK to rest."

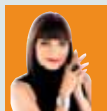
### Hydrate well, inside and out, to fake a solid night's sleep

"I need about nine hours of sleep but I've learned to function with much less. I would fly overnight to Milan, arrive in the morning and go straight to 14 appointments — that's your job. So I started to sleep with an eye mask or take some melatonin (during flights). And drink lots of water. When you wake up dehydrated, your skin feels horrible. So I would put on the SKYN Iceland Hydra Cool Firming Eye Gels, roll an ice cube around my eye zone and spritz my face with the Heritage Store Rose Petals Rosewater — it helps me look awake"

### When all else fails, copy the makeup artists

"I've definitely arrived super tired and broken out on the last day of the Paris shows. Thankfully the makeup artists are amazing when it comes to erasing signs of fatigue. They'll give a face massage using the Embryolisse Lait-Crème Concentré face cream to increase the blood flow to your face and use eye drops for extra sparkle. I also like to use Ling Drying Lotion on a pimple at night and it'll be gone by the time you wake up."

### Twitter



JEANNE  
SPACE  
Jeanne Beker  
life@metronews.ca

TWITTER ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.



Ready to strut it! Backstage @TorontoFashion #NewLabels show



Lunch with @LaureenHarper at 24 Sussex Dr to brainstorm ideas for CDN Centre for Child Protection. NeedHelpNow.ca

The latest Accuweather forecast is predicting a cool summer after this insane winter, but let's not let that stop us from thinking about swimsuit season. Go online to Trends Report to see the latest styles in long-sleeved swimwear, and let me know, would you choose a sleeved suit over a barely there bikini?



- Online. Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetrolreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Photo via Getty Images





# Girls who've grown into glamorous

**Seniors strut their stuff.** Advanced Style offers intimate glimpse into lives of fashionable seniors

Glamorous older women captured by blogger Ari Cohen are getting their close-up in the documentary *Advanced Style*, which explores the private lives of stylish seniors.

Director Lina Plioplyte turns her lens on Cohen — creator of the *Advanced Style* blog — as he photographs women on the streets of New York in the documentary, which premiered at the Hot Docs festival in Toronto.

Plioplyte said she initially started filming short clips of the women peeking through their closets and “having cute moments,” which received an incredible response on YouTube. After putting out a trailer that netted one million views, Cohen said they decided to



Debra Rapoport of the documentary *Advanced Style* poses for a photograph in Toronto. The documentary is focused on stylish seniors. NATHAN DENETTE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

get serious about making a film, distilling 200 hours of footage for the documentary.

Beyond the fashion, *Advanced Style* delves into the

women's joys and passions — as well as their vulnerabilities, such as the desire for love and companionship in their golden years.

“The movie would not be

what it is if it was only about fashion,” Plioplyte said in an interview seated alongside Cohen. “I did not want to make a film that's only about colour and dress, be-

## **Wearing their wisdom**

**“They're vulnerable and strong. That's the most beautiful thing to me. And they're comfortable in their vulnerability as much as their strength.”**

Lina Plioplyte  
Director *Advanced Style*

cause who they are behind the clothing are women who are like all of us. We want to be happy, we want to have a companion, so it was an absolutely necessary part of the film.

“With the life experience of 60 or 80 years comes not only this glamorous idea of self, knowing of self, but also you have a lot of dark stuff that you went through in your life that makes you who you are — makes you strong,” she added. “They're vulnerable and strong. That's the most beautiful thing to me. And they're comfortable in their vulnerability as much as their

strength.”

Wearing ornate toppers, colourful coats and stacks of bangles and baubles adorning their arms, two of the stars of *Advanced Style* express pride in being able to redefine outdated societal views of seniors.

“I think it's the greatest inspiration for older women and younger women,” said Lynn Dell, 81, founder of the Off Broadway Boutique. “We want to just show them what we can do, what we're about and what it's all about — what you can do.”

“I live a very creative life and I encourage others to just find their creativity and their vitality and go for it, without judgment,” said Debra Rapoport, 69, who operates the Viva Le Hat website and Etsy shop and has presented workshops on personal style and creativity.

“It's not about shopping, it's not about brand names. It's about finding what works for you and how you want to present yourself to the world.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Plum-struck makeover

**Colour creates a living room with style.** One reader with just a sofa gets some affordable decor suggestions



**DESIGN CENTRE**  
Karl Lohnes  
home@metronews.ca

**Q: My small living room has a new sofa with neutral wood floors and walls. I'd like the room to have some colour added but look relaxed and organic.**

— Trisha, via email

**A:** Start by choosing another neutral colour to help accent the beige tones in the room.

I suggest a soft stone-purple colour; it comes in many tones and layering it will give it an organic look.

A patterned area rug will help add some life to the room while adding a statement chair will help to define the new colour in the room.

If introducing more of the warm beige colour, then

bring it into the room with texture — you have more than enough smooth beige filling the room!

Here's a storyboard of products that I think would enhance your living room without breaking the bank.

**BEFORE:** A beige room needs some colour and accessories



**Magic carpet**

Tie-dyed patterns create an organic look while incorporating all the colours of the room. All wool 8x10-foot carpet, \$460, eCarpetGallery.com



**Wing it**

A tall fashionably coloured chair is perfect in the corner of the room. Luxe Wind Chair, \$1925, CrateAndBarrel.com

**Jute your fancy**

It's a footrest or place to perch. Jute rope Pier Pouf, \$129, UrbanBarn.com



**Paint perfect**

A focal wall of colour painted behind the sofa will add drama to the all-beige room. Cinnamon Slate 2113-40, BenjaminMoore.ca



**Grain power**

Two organic images printed on birch wood veneer hung side-by-side would be the perfect proportion over the long sofa. Old Wood 28x36-inch print, \$249, WestElm.com



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**Feather your nest**

Modern and natural style pillow with long feathers printed on velvet. Micro Velvet Feather Cushion, \$15, Simons.ca

**'Round the table**

Simple in form yet with the look of a well-travelled accessory, this table adds exotic flair. Moroccan Coffee Table, \$399, PotteryBarn.com





# Cures to 3 common backyard woes

## Yard acts to follow.

A little lattice, some water and a raised bed are simply remedies for the backyard blues

Backyard trends may come and go but some yard headaches will never go away. While there will always be tasks like grass cutting that have to be done, there are common backyard problems that can be solved once and for all. Tackling any of these three dilemmas will be a vital step towards achieving backyard perfection.

### Problem: AC unit sticks out like a sore thumb

Solution: That AC unit isn't going anywhere, so the best solution is to camouflage it as best as possible. A simple lattice screen around the unsightly box will do wonders to eliminate the eyesore, and you can even plant some growing vines at the base to further hide the unit. Make sure to leave room around it for proper airflow and

### Desperate Landscapes

For more advice on how to make your backyard the envy of the neighbourhood, tune in to Desperate Landscapes, Thursdays at 10 p.m. ET/PT on DIY Network Canada.

to trim any plants regularly to keep your AC working all summer long.

### Problem: City and car noise ruins the backyard Zen factor

Solution: Ponds and fountains are more than just eye candy. They provide a soothing sound that is not only relaxing but will help drown out traffic noise or other city racket. Don't focus too much on the fountain's size, but where it will be

### Turn on the waterworks

Ponds and fountains are more than just eye candy. They provide a soothing sound that is not only relaxing but will help drown out traffic noise and other city rackets.

placed. Even a small waterfall can be effective if it's placed close to a popular seating area. Depending on the setup and location, it may be necessary to have an electrician install an outdoor outlet for the pump.

### Problem: Kids and pets are trampling the garden

Solution: Allowing kids and pets to enjoy the yard shouldn't mean the destruction of a manicured garden or luscious vegetable patch. To keep your hard work from being damaged by an exercising dog or an errant soccer ball, create a raised flower bed a few feet off the ground. Whether using bricks or wood as the frame, this project can be completed on the weekend with no previous DIY experience, and it doesn't require any expensive tools.



Even a small fountain or waterfall can turn a noisy yard into a Zen garden. ISTOCK

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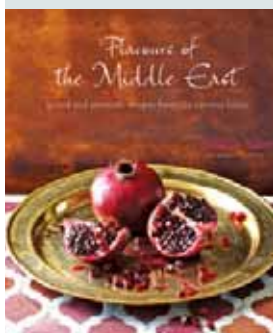
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# Bite into the intense flavours of Palestine

## Cookbook of the Week

### A culinary Middle Eastern trek



Flavours of the Middle East by Ghillie Basan showcases dishes you would encounter should you travel the ancient lands of the region.

With feature spreads profiling the essential ingredients and more than 60 authentic recipes, the book makes it easy to prepare exotic fare at home.

You'll start with appetizers like Hot Hummus with Samna, make your way to main courses with Poached Fish with Saffron, throw in some veggies like Fried Carrot and Fennel and end with sweets like Noah's Pudding. **METRO**

**Chicken, Onions and Sumac with Pitta Bread.** These bites are often served as a tasty and tangy street snack by tucking the ingredients into a pouch

"This simple and tasty snack was first introduced to me as a Palestinian peasant dish and, although I have enjoyed several variations since then, it is the Palestinian version that has remained in my memory," writes Ghillie Basan in Flavours of the Middle East.

1. Preheat the oven to 180 C (350 F)

2. Heat the olive oil and butter in a heavy-based pan and stir in the onions. When they begin to soften, add the garlic and fry until the onions turn golden brown.

3. Add the chicken and cook for 2-3 minutes, before stirring in most of the sumac, cardamom and baharat mix.

4. Add the lemon juice and cook gently until the chicken is tender but still juicy. Toss in most of the pine nuts and parsley and season to taste with salt and pepper.

5. Place the pita halves on the prepared baking sheet. Pop them in the preheated oven for about 10 minutes to toast them. Fill the toasted pouches with the chicken mixture, top each one with a dollop of yogurt and scatter the reserved sumac, pine nuts and parsley over the top. Serve immediately.

RECIPES FROM FLAVORS OF THE MIDDLE EAST BY GHILLIE BASAN (RYLAND PETERS AND SMALL, \$35.95; RYLAND-PETERS.COM)

## Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil with a knob/pat of butter
- 2 onions, sliced
- 2-3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 700 g (1 3/4 lbs) chicken breasts, cut into bite-size strips
- 2-3 tsp ground sumac
- 1 tsp crushed cardamom seeds
- 1-2 tsp baharat mix
- freshly squeezed juice of 1 unwaxed lemon
- 2 tbsp toasted pine nuts
- a small bunch of fresh flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 4 pita breads, halved cross-ways to form 8 pockets
- 4 generous tbsp thick, creamy yogurt
- baking sheet, lightly oiled



TOTAL  
TIME  
ABOUT 25  
MINUTES

This recipe serves four. STEVE PAINTER

## Snack. Halloumi with Figs, Olives and Zahtar

1. Heat the oil in a heavy-based saucepan. Add the halloumi and fry for 4-5 minutes until golden-brown all over. Drain on paper towels.

2. Tip the halloumi onto a serving dish, scatter the sliced figs and olives over and around it and drizzle the grape molasses over the top. Sprinkle with zahtar and a little salt to taste and serve immediately, while the halloumi is still warm, with wedges of lime to squeeze over it.

## Ingredients

- 3-4 tbsp olive oil
- 250 g (8 oz) plain halloumi, well rinsed and cut into thin, bite-size slices
- 4-6 dried figs, cut into thin slices
- 2 tbsp crinkled, fleshy black olives
- 1-2 tbsp grape or date molasses
- 1-2 tbsp zahtar
- a sprinkling of sea salt
- 1 lime, cut into quarters

## For your phone

Buy Me A Pie!  
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Android; \$2.99)



**MIND THE APP**  
Kris Abel  
@RealKrisAbel  
life@metronews.ca

Intuitively create grocery shopping lists with this auto-complete system that colour-codes items by aisle and then share in real-time (complete with changes) with friends and family by email or text.



This recipe serves four people. STEVE PAINTER





Take extra time and think about what you are going to get your mom for Mother's Day. SHUTTERSTOCK

# Special thoughts

KATHY  
BUCKWORTH  
For Metro

Mother's Day is supposed to be a day of celebration and gift giving — everything from handmade cards from the kids, to more expensive glittery items from grateful dads.

But some gifts can cause more stress and guilt than joy. Things like:

- The workout equipment/ gym clothes/personal training sessions for the mom who hasn't had the chance or inclination to work out for a number of years. The reminder that she needs to get off the couch can be a harsh one.

Suggest instead a bike ride or a family hike.

- A new blender/mixer/toaster oven or other small appliance for the mom who really doesn't want to spend any more time in the kitchen than she already does. This is going to make her feel bad about cluttering up the counter and not using the appliance.

- Gift cards are a terrific choice if mom likes to visit and shop at that particular place, but not if it is a hassle for her to get there with the kids. Think before choosing (giftchoice.ca has a huge selection).

- A spa treatment sounds

wonderful, but isn't for everyone. Not all women enjoy spa treatments to begin with, and those who do often can't indulge because they can't find a sitter for the kids or time in their schedule. Make sure the treatment is wanted, book the sitter, and get it in her schedule so she doesn't feel the gift card expiry guilt.

- Clothing can be tricky for those who aren't used to buying it for someone else. If you get a size too small you might be inferring she needs to lose weight; a size too big could mean you think she is bigger than she is. Check labels and sizes of favourite clothes before shopping.

## Mom deserves pampering

JANINE  
FALCON  
For Metro

We have rounded up a selection of covetable skin care, fragrance and makeup we think would go beautifully with that pretty bouquet of flowers you have already picked out for the best mother in the world.

**The Schwarzkopf Professional Ceramic Hair Dryer** cuts drying time by 50 per cent. \$215 at schwarzkopf.com for salons. This tangle-proof 3D Speed Brush by Hot Heads also cuts dry time and boosts shine. From \$18, delineation.ca.

**Caudalie Polyphenol C15** packs a powerful antioxidant punch coupled with a potent dose of brightening vitamin C. Anti-Wrinkle Protect Fluid, \$52; Serum, \$66; Eye and Lip

Cream, \$52. All at Sephora, sephora.com.

**Fresh Black Tea Instant Perfecting Mask** is a deliciously cooling, hydrating whipped texture that leaves skin feeling wonderfully fresh. \$88 at Sephora, sephora.com.

**The Clarisonic Aria Cleansing System**, newly available in cheerful hot pink, has three speeds for its complexion-perfecting sonic action. \$225 at Hudson's Bay, Sephora and Shoppers Drug Mart. Mom's already all set with a unit? The new **Clarisonic Luxe Facial Brush Cashmere Cleanse** is a satiny-soft, dual-brush replacement head that fits all models. \$36 at Sephora, sephora.com.

**Diptyque Geranium Odorata** is a free-spirited blend of lush geranium anchored with

bergamot, green cardamom, cedar and vetiver. \$118 at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.

**Yves Saint Laurent Oriental Collection Supreme Bouquet** is an exotic, heady floral blend of tuberose and jasmine sambac with warm amberwoody accord. \$230 at select Holt Renfrew and Hudson's Bay stores.

**Les Exclusifs de Chanel Jersey Extraits** is the new perfume edition of the elegant scent interpretation of the supple knit fabric Mademoiselle Chanel made chic in 1916. \$200.

The limited-edition **Bellavance x Burt's Bees Lip Balm Roll** by design duo Bellavance includes two tinted balms and two shimmers. Proceeds to Pollinator Partnership of Canada. \$20 at burtsbees.ca.

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## Penguins look to tighten hold on series lead

Pittsburgh Penguins winger Chris Kunitz manoeuvres the puck in front of New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist in the first period of their second-round playoff game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Monday. For more on the game, go to [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca). KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Habs fans give it up for the Weise man

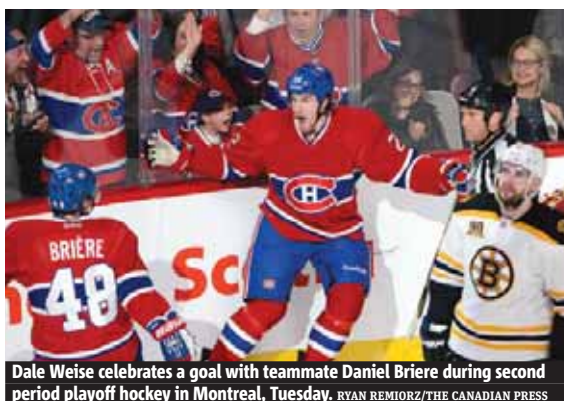
**NHL playoffs.** Forward making his mark after being dumped by the Canucks mid-season

Dale Weise is finding out what it's like to be a Montreal Canadien when they're winning in the springtime.

The city groaned when general manager Marc Bergevin sent defenceman Raphael Diaz to the Vancouver Canucks for the little-known Weise on Feb. 3, but now the energetic fourth-line right-winger is becoming a folk hero.

His breakaway goal in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference semifinal on Tuesday night became his second game-winner of the playoffs as the Canadiens defeated the rival Boston Bruins 4-2 to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Weise had scored in overtime in the first game of an opening round sweep of the



Dale Weise celebrates a goal with teammate Daniel Briere during second period playoff hockey in Montreal, Tuesday. RYAN REMIOW/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tampa Bay Lightning.

His first taste of his newfound fame came this week when he was out for a stroll with his fiancée, with seven-month-old son Hunter in a stroller.

"This car pulled over right on the sidewalk," Weise said Wednesday. "The guy was in the driver's seat and I was on the right side."

"In the middle of the green light he reached across and he's banging on the window and yelling. My fiancée's like, 'What is this guy doing?' She's freaking out, and he's giving me the thumbs up. It was pretty outrageous."

Weise will have a chance to grow his legend even more in Game 4 on Thursday night at the Bell Centre, as the Cana-

### Tough luck, Torts

In his third season in Vancouver, Weise was ignored by coach John Tortorella, but landed on his feet as a regular fourth liner in Montreal.

diens attempt to put a choke hold on the series.

Taking a lead on the favoured Bruins has built a considerable buzz in Montreal, but a series in which Boston has looked overwhelming at times is far from over.

The Canadiens blew 2-0 and 3-2 leads before winning in overtime in the series opener. Then they wasted a 3-1 lead by conceding four third-period goals in a 5-3 setback in Game 2 in Boston.

"This is such a huge rivalry," said Weise. "When (we) meet in the regular season it's looked at like a playoff match-up. It's such a cool thing to be a part of." THE CANADIAN PRESS

### St. Louis Blues

## Hitchcock inks 1-year extension

The St. Louis Blues have extended coach Ken Hitchcock's contract through next season, though there will be some staff changes.

Assistant coaches Brad Shaw and Ray Bennett also will return. A third assistant coach, Gary Agnew, and goaltending coach Corey Hirsch are not being retained.

The 62-year-old Hitchcock led the Blues to a franchise-record 52 victories this season and has taken them to the playoffs all three of his seasons. He's 124-55-20, a franchise-best .673 winning percentage, and is seventh on the NHL career list with 657 wins. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Philadelphia Flyers

## Ex-goalie Hextall named Philly GM

Ron Hextall got his "dream job."

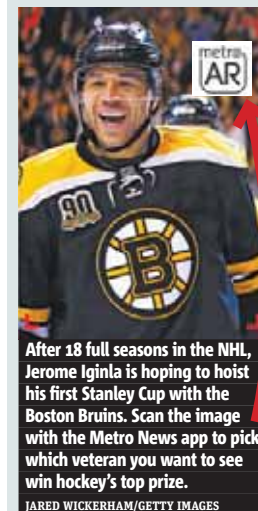
Hextall was promoted to general manager by the Philadelphia Flyers on Wednesday to replace Paul Holmgren, who was elevated to president. Hextall is Philadelphia's all-time winningest goalie and served as assistant GM last year.

"When I was done playing 15 years ago, my next goal was to become a general manager," Hextall said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Metro poll

## Which cup-less vet needs it most?



After 18 full seasons in the NHL, Jerome Iginla is hoping to hoist his first Stanley Cup with the Boston Bruins. Scan the image with the Metro News app to pick which veteran you want to see win hockey's top prize.

JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES



PGA

## Scott looking out for No. 1

As much time as Adam Scott spends away from the PGA Tour, this might have been a good week to take off.

By the mathematical wonder of the world ranking, Scott could have stayed in The Bahamas this week and still moved to No. 1 in the world ranking provided three other players had an ordinary week at The Players Championship.

"See you later," Scott said with a laugh when told of the scenario.

Scott would love to get to No. 1 for the first time in his career, though he's more interested in winning big tournaments. Besides, he has squandered chances at Bay Hill and the Masters to replace Tiger Woods atop the ranking.

What adds to the interest on the TPC Sawgrass is Henrik Stenson, Bubba Watson and Matt Kuchar each have a mathematical chance to reach No. 1 for the first time as well.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Premier League

## Man City draws close to title

Manchester City scored four goals in the final 26 minutes to beat Aston Villa 4-0 on Wednesday, moving the team two points clear in the Premier League and realistically needing only a draw from its last match to win the title.

City made it 100 goals for the campaign as Edin Dzeko netted two close-range finishes in the 64th and 72nd minutes before Stevan Jovetic added a third in the 89th and Yaya Toure rounded the victory in injury time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Vincent Kompany of Manchester City performs a bicycle kick against Aston Villa Wednesday.

MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES

# The wait is over for top college recruits

**NFL.** Draft is finally here with plenty of intrigue at top of board

Jadeveon Clowney just wants it to be over already.

The NFL's first May draft gave everyone a little more time to critique the prospects and try to figure out who is going where and when.

No player has been more scrutinized than Clowney, the defensive end from South Carolina whose every move has been analyzed since he ended his sophomore season with a helmet-removing hit against Michigan.

"I've been tired of it. I wish the draft was two or three weeks ago," Clowney said Wednesday after playing flag football with grammar-school kids at the NFL's Play 60 festival at a park on the west side

of Manhattan.

The Houston Texans have the first pick and Clowney could be their guy. Or maybe they'll take a quarterback, such as Johnny Manziel. Or maybe they'll trade the pick.

The NFL has given fans two extra weeks to ponder these questions. The draft is usually held in April, but some scheduling conflicts at Radio City Music Hall caused the NFL to push it back. Commissioner Roger Goodell said that it's too soon to say whether May drafts are here to stay.

This year's draft finally gets underway Thursday night. Rounds 2 and 3 are Friday night. It concludes with four rounds Saturday, when there will likely be more intrigue than usual. Missouri linebacker Michael Sam, who made public that he is gay back in February, is projected to be a possible late-round selection. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Will the Houston Texans select Jadeveon Clowney with the first overall pick tonight in the NFL draft? GETTY IMAGES FILE

## Pro baseball working on diversity in hiring practices

Major League Baseball maintained its racial and gender hiring practices in the last year, while the percentage of African-American players equalled a study's all-time low set in the 2007 season.

That's according to the annual report by Richard Lapchick's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports at the University of Central Florida. It gave MLB an A grade in racial hiring and C-plus in gender hiring.

The baseball rosters on opening day featured 8.2 per cent of players who identified as African-American, equaling the all-time low for the second time since the study began in 1988. It's a decline from 8.3 per cent in 2013 and 8.9 per cent in 2012.

In April 2013, MLB instituted a task force to consider ways to increase diversity in the game, especially among African-American players.

Overall, 39.1 per cent of players (295) in baseball are people of colour, with Latino players making up 28.4 per cent (214) of that figure. Still, study author Richard Lapchick noted that there is concern throughout baseball about the steady decline of African-American players since 2000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gender hiring

27%

376 women account for 27 per cent of team professional administration positions.

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2	4	8	7	5	6	1	3	9
1	6	9	4	2	3	5	7	8
3	8	2	5	1	7	9	4	6
4	5	7	9	6	8	3	2	1
6	3	1	2	7	9	4	8	5
8	7	5	1	3	4	6	9	2
9	2	4	6	8	5	7	1	3

5	9			8	1			7
			4			8		3
				7				
	8		6				4	
		9				3		
	2				8		5	
				1				
7		4			5			
8			2	6			7	9

Horoscopes

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

You're not the kind to turn  
away someone who is down  
on their luck, but watch out you  
don't get conned by a sob story.  
Sadly not everyone is as honest  
as you, so check facts before  
thinking of parting with cash.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You may be a bit hesitant and  
suspicious today but that's okay.  
The thing to remember is that  
the cosmos is very much on  
your side at the moment, so  
you can afford to take a risk – or  
not, as you see fit.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

If you don't feel like socializing  
today, don't force yourself. You  
are entitled to your own space  
and if others find that hard to  
understand then they are not  
very smart. Give yourself some  
time to meditate on and plan  
for the future.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

No matter what happened and  
who was to blame there is no  
point regretting what  
happened yesterday because  
you can't go back and change  
it. What you can do is to make  
tomorrow better.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

It's good that you know how to  
be assertive but the planets  
warn you must not go too far.  
If you break the rules over the  
next 24 hours, someone higher  
up the ladder than you will  
make you pay for it.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

You have absolutely nothing to  
worry about but for some  
strange reason you have this  
feeling of impending disaster.  
Ignore it. Most likely it is just  
your mind playing tricks on you  
— and even if it isn't, what  
happens will be no big deal.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Whatever else you do over the  
next 24 hours don't cut corners  
or break rules, because you  
won't get away with it. Resist  
the temptation to do anything  
dishonest, not just because it is  
dishonest but also because you  
really don't need to.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

The Sun in your opposite sign  
of Taurus means, among  
other things, that you have to  
put up with people who  
annoy you. Don't be tempted to  
argue with them because if  
you do, the situation may get  
out of hand.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Don't think badly of yourself if  
you have to admit that you  
have failed to reach a target of  
some sort. The fact is you tried  
— when so many other people  
never even get started — and  
that alone makes you some  
kind of hero.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Most things seem to be going  
well for you and that's good,  
but the planets warn you must  
not get too content and drift  
along without trying. When  
things are going good, you  
should be aiming for great.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Don't worry if you lose out in  
some way over the next 24  
hours because you will more  
than make up for it later in the  
month. If something seems to  
be slipping from your grasp just  
let it go. Change is always good  
in the long-term.

♓ Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Steer clear of disputes that have  
nothing to do with you. The  
more others try to draw you  
into an argument, the more  
you must keep your distance.  
That applies especially to  
friendships and money — they  
don't mix. **SALLY BROMPTON**

TRANSIT  
BINGO

Find the following items  
on your commute to  
score a **BINGO**.

B

I

N

G

O

a baby	a pop can	face piercing	a dog	groceries
a suitcase	transit worker	crazy hair colour	someone wearing purple	someone reading an ebook
someone sleeping	gum on the floor	FREE	someone reading a magazine	ad for a a new movie
someone blaring music	a kissing couple	cutoff jeans	someone reading a Metro	socks & sandals
a tattoo	Candy Crush	ad for a language course	sweat pants	a bus transfer

## WIND MOBILE WORD SEARCH

BORDER CANADA  
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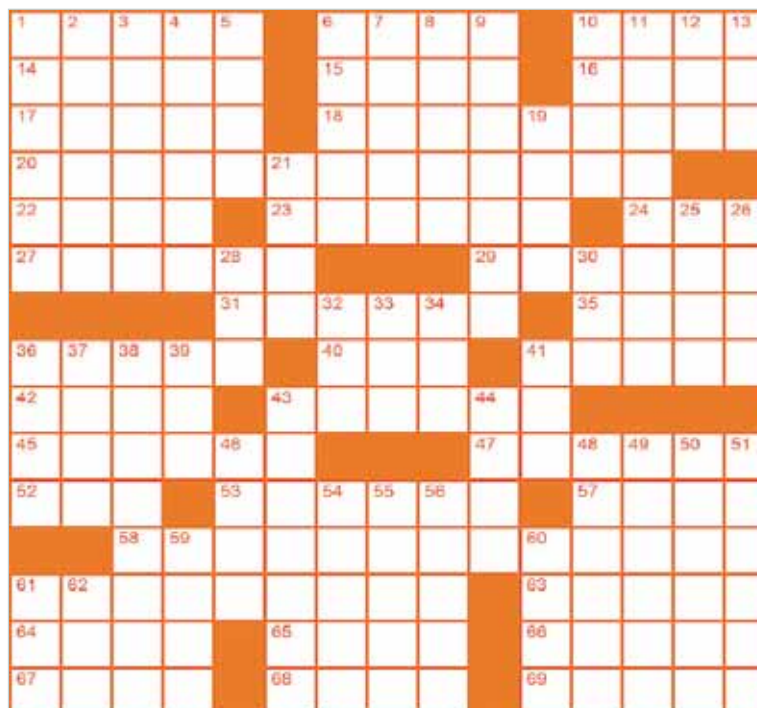
SPRING TALK  
TEXT USA  
WIND WOW  
CELL

L F U R A E R U  
L G N E T N L S  
E N L D A O I A  
C I I R D H K D  
D R M O E P E A  
N P I B T K N N  
I S T W E L A A  
W E E O X A L C  
D O D W T T P M

### Crossword: Canada Across and Down

#### Across

1. "Hey! I bet you can't..." sayer
6. Basketball: Miami
10. Caesar's 2101
14. Singer Ms. Cara
15. Paris pronoun
16. Mil. school
17. Georgia, for one
18. Is there any of 'it' out 'there' some-where?: 2 wds.
20. Montreal-based UN Agency... ICAO = International \_\_\_\_\_ Organization
22. Conniver
23. Minify
24. "Conan" cable network
27. Current
29. Official study
31. Patrick \_\_\_\_ (Zoe Saldana's Canadian co-star in NBC's miniseries adaptation of #58-Across)
35. "Makes sense.": 2 wds.
36. Chesterfields
40. Ms. Hagen
41. Do additional tailoring
42. "\_\_\_\_ cost you!"
43. Like a rose
45. Commercial area of Venice
47. Trojan hero
52. Approx.
53. Speechmaker
57. Jazz singer Ms. Fitzgerald
58. Ira Levin's 1967



- scary bestseller: 2 wds.
61. Surname of the married couple portrayed by the stars at #31-Across
63. Rock band, Death Cab for \_\_\_\_
64. 'Refer' suffix
65. \_\_\_\_ Canadian (Currency conversion

- choice)
66. Margarines
67. Ritzy retailer, \_\_\_\_ Fifth Avenue
68. Swinger's supplies?
69. Never happened or existed

#### Down

1. \_\_\_\_ Throw (Decath-

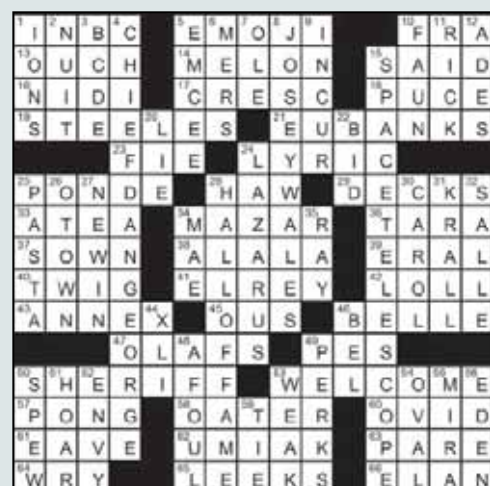
- lon event)
2. Emily Carr, for one
3. Plunderer, archaically
4. Whole
5. Merry dance
6. Yo-\_\_\_\_ho! (Hoist, sailors, hoist!)
7. Arthur \_\_\_\_ Awards (Crime Writers of Canada annual

- honours)
8. Handle
9. Shifts stableness
10. Saint-\_\_\_\_ (1491 birthplace of French explorer Jacques Cartier)
11. Canadian apple
12. Li'l lunchtime locale
13. 'Chlor' suffix

19. Three squared
21. Alfred Hitchcock's wife played by Helen Mirren in "Hitchcock" (2012)
25. Marcia's "Desperate Housewives" role
26. From \_\_\_\_ to stern
28. Backstreet Boys member Mr. McLean's
30. \_\_\_\_ chart
32. "Well, obviously!"
33. \_\_\_\_ Z
34. Wreck
36. "Your majesty."
37. Mr. Redding
38. Newfoundland town
39. \_\_\_\_-inclusive
41. \_\_\_\_ bread
43. Removed, as a newspaper story: 2 wds.
44. Not
46. "\_\_\_\_o", airing on MuchMusic
48. Dusty space cloud
49. Uplifts
50. Great Britain's archaic name
51. Declare, Bible-style
54. Create cheeriness
55. Flavour
56. Sweet 'sandwich' snacks
59. Venerated verses
60. Flat-bottomed vessel
61. Mr. Craven
62. "Bird \_\_\_\_ Wire" (1990)

See today's answers at [metronews.ca/answers](http://metronews.ca/answers).  
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

### Yesterday's Crossword



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